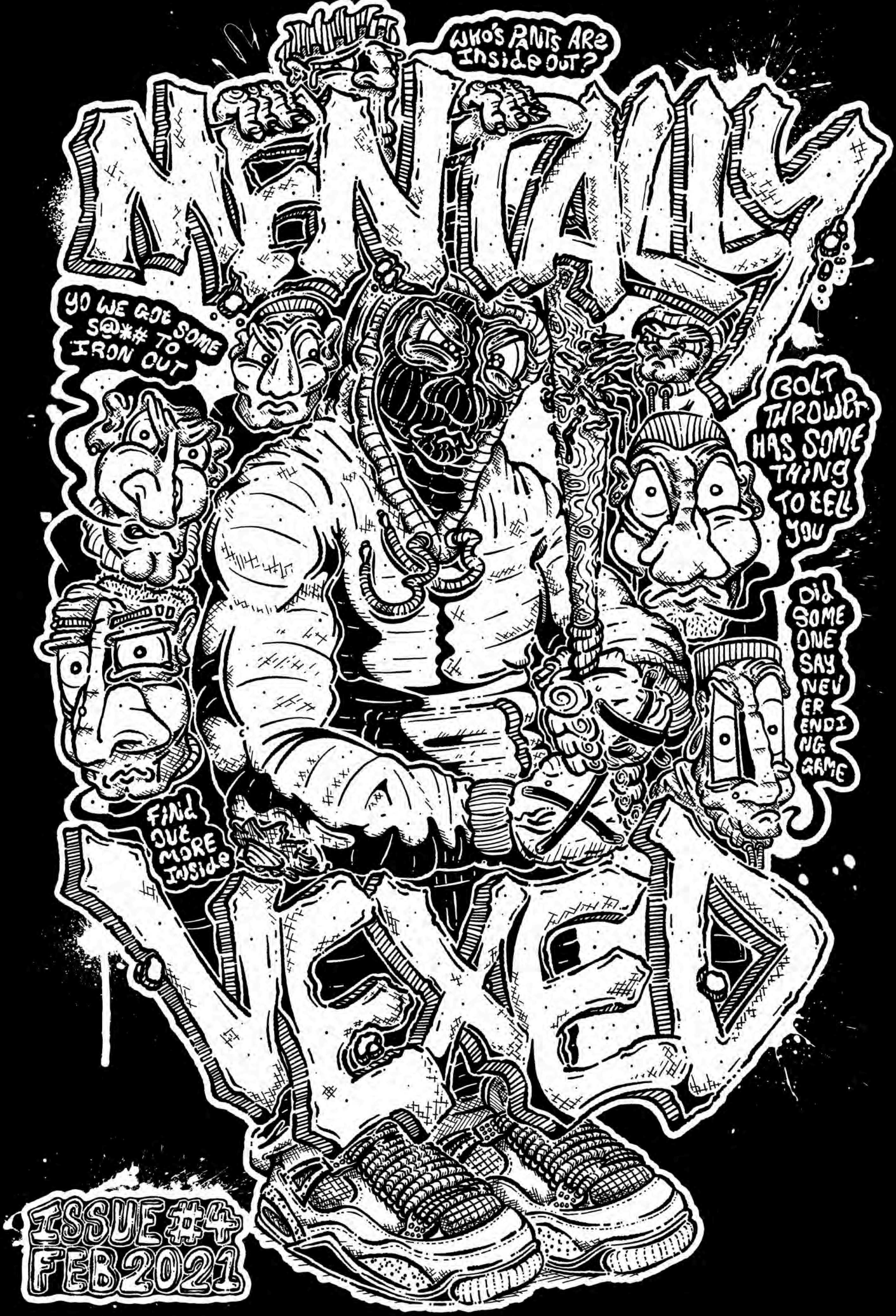
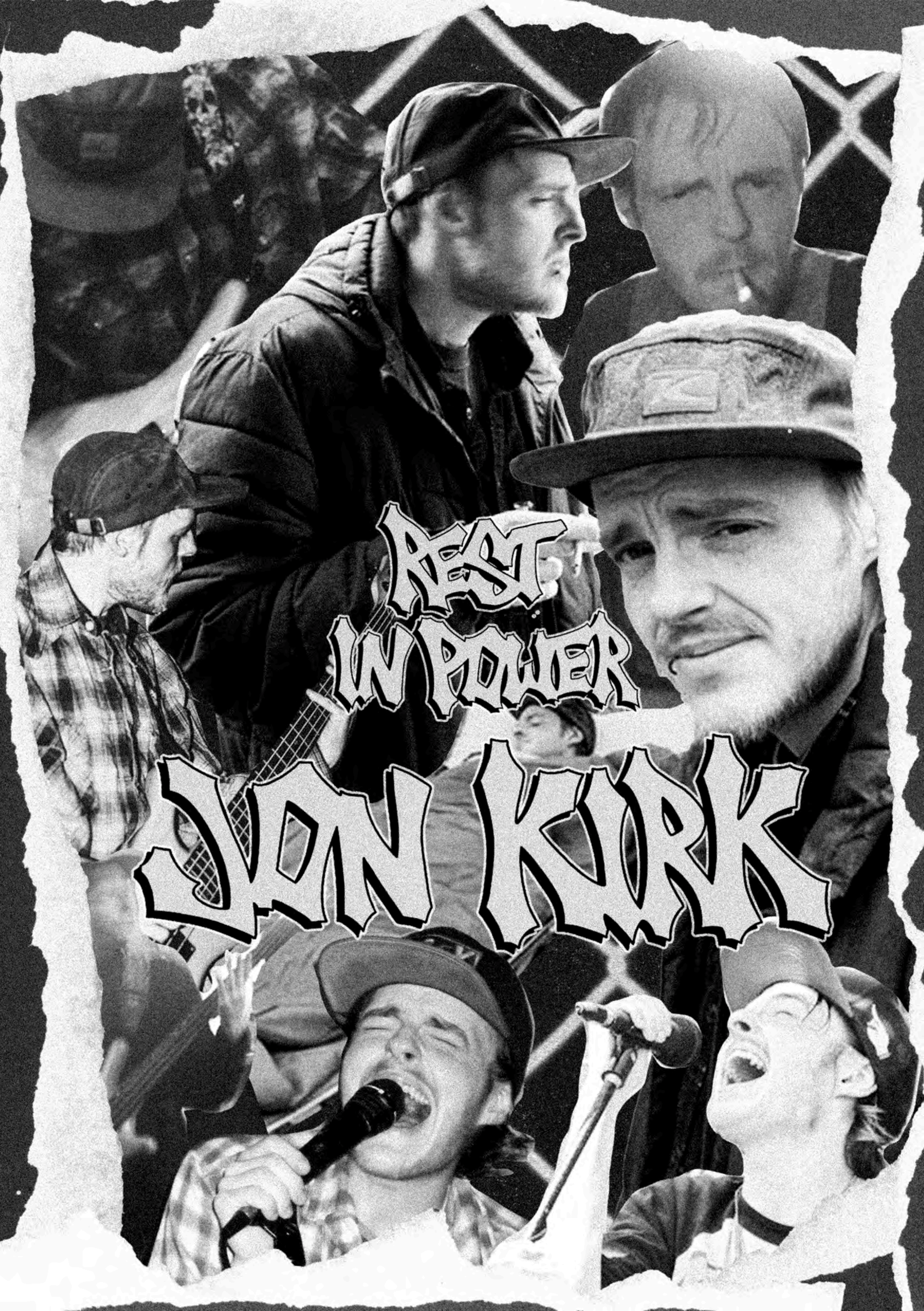

WHO'S PANTS ARE INSIDE OUT?
MENTALLY
YO WE GOT SOME S@*# TO IRON OUT
BOLT THROWER HAS SOME THING TO TELL YOU
DID SOME ONE SAY NEVER ENDING GAME
FIND OUT MORE INSIDE
VEXED
ISSUE #4 FEB 2021


REST
IN POWER
JON KIRK

CRUELTY

THERE IS NO GOD WHERE I AM

OUT: 30.04.21

FRENETIC METALLIC HARDCORE

FFO: DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN, CONVERGE & ZAO

CHURCH ROAD
RECORDS

PRE-ORDER NOW: WWW.CHURCHROADRECORDS.COM

MH Chaos

CHICAGO IS CHURNING OUT SOME INSANE BANDS RIGHT NOW! MH CHAOS IS THE EMBODIMENT OF BEATDOWN HARDCORE, PUSHING TIGHT RIFFS AND PURE UNFILTERED RAGE. THESE GUYS HAVEN'T LET THE PANDEMIC GET IN THE WAY OF THEM, WRITING THE HARDEST SONG ON THE ONE SCENE UNITY COMP AND GETTING TO WORK ON THEIR HIGHLY ANTICIPATED LP. THANKS TO GUITARIST ANCHIT FOR TAKING THE TIME TO TALK TO US

HEY ANCHIT, WHAT'S UP MAN? BEFORE WE DIVE IN, GREAT JOB ON THE HUMAN ANIMAL ZINE! IT'S SO SICK.
THANK YOU SO MUCH MAN. REALLY APPRECIATE THAT, WHEN YOU SENT ME A COPY OF THE MENTALLY VEXED FANZINE, I WAS REALLY IMPRESSED. SO MUCH GREAT CONTENT AND VERY NICELY DONE. I'M CURRENTLY ON MY COUCH WATCHING FOOTBALL, I STAYED UP TIL LIKE 4 AM RECORDING GUITARS FOR A NEW BAND LAST NIGHT HAHA

HOW LONG HAVE MH CHAOS BEEN TOGETHER? WHAT WAS THE FIRST COUPLE SHOWS LIKE?
MH CHAOS HAS BEEN TOGETHER SINCE ABOUT 2018... FIRST SHOWS WERE AWESOME. IT HAD THAT FEELING I WOULD FIRST GET WHEN I PLAYED IN MY FIRST BAND EVER.. WE PLAYED GARY, INDIANA WITH SAND FROM JAPAN AS OUR FIRST SHOW AND THEN THE NEXT WAS IN CHICAGO WITH MADBALL... SO THEY WERE TWO AWESOME SHOWS TO START OFF WITH

HOW DID THE SPLIT WITH INVOKE HAPPEN? DID YOU TOUR WITH THOSE GUYS OR SOMETHING?
WE PLAYED A SHOW WITH THEM IN CHICAGO, IT WAS A TOY DRIVE SHOW. WE HONESTLY DIDN'T REALLY KNOW THEM PERSONALLY BEFORE THAT SHOW, BUT WE LOVED THEIR SOUND AND THEY ARE GREAT PEOPLE. WE WERE CHILLIN BY THE MERCH TABLE AND ASKED IF THEY WANTED TO DO A SPLIT... THEY WERE DOWN AND THEN WE MADE IT HAPPEN

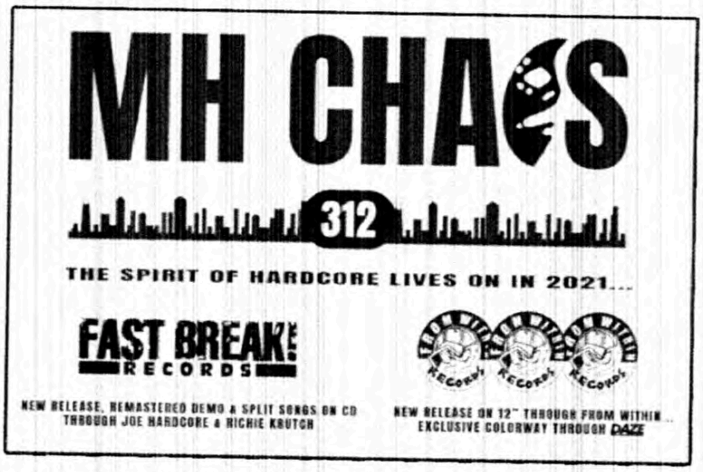
MH CHAOS HAS A VERY DISTINCTIVE SOUND, LIKE SOME OF THE GROOVES ARE KINDA...UNHINGED? MAD KICK PEDALS GOING ON. WHO'S THE SONGWRITING MASTERMIND? WHAT'S THE PROCESS WITH WRITING/RECORDING?
THANK YOU MAN, THAT MEANS THE WORLD. I WOULD SAY WE ALL HAVE SOME PART IN MAKING THE MUSIC... MAYBE ONE PERSON WILL HAVE AN OVERALL IDEA AND BRING IT TO THE REST AND WE WILL THROW IT THROUGH THE CHAOS MEAT GRINDER AS I LIKE TO CALL IT. SOME SONGS ARE HEAVILY MAYBE WRITTEN BY ONE PERSON, AND SOME ARE A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT BUT WE LOVE WORKING ON MUSIC TOGETHER. WITH COVID AND SHIT, WE DIDN'T MEET UP FOR A FEW WEEKS WHEN IT STARTED SO I BOUGHT SOME RECORDING SHIT AND SO DID SERG FROM SECTOR. GAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WRITE MY KIND OF HATE FROM THE ONE SCENE COMP... IT WAS A DIFFERENT WRITING APPROACH BUT TURNED OUT GREAT.

HERBICIDE - I CAN RELATE TO THE LYRICS OF THIS. WAS THERE A PARTICULAR BACKSTORY, OR LIKE JUST GENERALLY ABOUT THE FAKES IN OUR SCENE?
ACTUALLY I THINK THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE ASKED THIS. THERE ACTUALLY IS A PARTICULAR STORY THAT SPARKED THIS... I DON'T THINK I CAN SPEAK ABOUT THE FULL DETAILS HERE BUT IT INVOLVED SOME OLD WASHED UP DRUNK DUDE AT A CRO MAGS/HOODS SHOW IN CHICAGO WHO WAS TRYING TO START SOME SHIT CAUSE I WAS PROBABLY DANCING A WAY HE WASN'T USED TOO.... IT DIDN'T END WELL FOR HIM HAHA

> ***"VENUES ARE STRUGGLING BUT WE HAVE COME TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY TO KEEP THINGS AFLOAT"***

YOU RECENTLY ANNOUNCED AN UPCOMING 12" (ON FROM WITHIN AND DAZE), IS THAT WRITTEN/RECORDED ETC.? DID YOU HAVE TO APPROACH WRITING DIFFERENTLY WITH THE PANDEMIC AND EVERYTHING? I KNOW SOME GUYS HAVE BEEN WRITING ON ZOOM AND FACETIME AND STUFF.
YES! ALSO GOT TO SAY, THE RELEASE IS ALSO HEAVILY INVOLVED WITH JOE HARDCORE AND RICHIE KRUTCH OF FAST BREAK! RECORDS... THEY'LL BE PUTTING IT OUT ON CD WITH SOME EXTRAS. SO WE GOT MOST OF IT WRITTEN AND GOING TO BE RECORDING IT SOON... I STARTED WRITING A LOT WHEN QUARANTINE HIT AND TRY TO SEND EVERYONE IDEAS EVERY DAY AND WE'VE BEEN GETTING TOGETHER EVERY WEEK, TRYING TO COME UP WITH NEW AND FRESH SHIT TOGETHER... BUT IT'S GOING GREAT.

LISTEN TO MH CHAOS HERE



MH CHAOS

312

THE SPIRIT OF HARDCORE LIVES ON IN 2021...

FAST BREAK! RECORDS

NEW RELEASE, REMASTERED DEMO & SPLIT SONGS ON CD THROUGH JOE HARDCORE & RICHIE KRUTCH

NEW RELEASE ON 12" THROUGH FROM WITHIN... EXCLUSIVE COLORWAY THROUGH DAZE

ANY IDEA ON A RELEASE DATE YET? WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE NEW RECORD?
NOT AN EXACT RELEASE DATE YET BUT PROBABLY MID TO EARLY 2021.... WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED IS THE UNEXPECTED.

HAVE YOU DELVED INTO MUCH UKHC? ARE THERE ANY BANDS YOU'RE RATING FROM OUR SCENE? DON'T SAY KNUCKLEDUST, THAT'S A GIVEN HAHA.
SOME OF MY FAVORITE UKHC BANDS ARE SPECIAL MOVE, BUN DEM OUT, NINEBAR, COLD HARD TRUTH. ALSO BIG CHEESE, MALIGNANT METHODS, DESPIZE, AND MOURNING.

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME MAN, ANYTHING YOU WANNA SAY AT ALL?
MUCH LOVE AND THANKS TO MENTALLY VEXED FANZINE AND EVERYONE ELSE WHO KEEPS THIS SHIT ALIVE.

LOOK OUT FOR THE 12" IN EARLY 2021, IT'S GONNA BE FUCKING HEAVY

PHOTOS BY KRISSY MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY & JOSH VEGA

BURN ALIVE

BURN ALIVE EXPLODED ONTO THE UKHC SCENE RIGHT AROUND THE TIME THE WORLD WENT TO SHIT. YOUNGER HEADS MAY NOT HAVE HEARD ANYTHING LIKE THEIR FRESH TAKE ON CHAOTIC HARDCORE, BUT BURN ALIVE SHOULD BRING A WAVE OF NOSTALGIA FOR OLDER LISTENERS WHO REMEMBER THE NOISY SOUNDS OF THE EARLY 2000'S. THANKS TO DAN BULFORD FOR TAKING THE TIME TO TALK WITH US.

HEY DAN, HOW YOU DOING MATE? MANAGING TO KEEP BUSY?

NOT TOO BAD MATE. THANKS FOR DOING THE INTERVIEW. I'VE BEEN KEEPING AS BUSY AS I CAN WITH EVERYTHING GOING ON - LUCKILY I WORK FROM HOME, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT'S ALWAYS BEEN EASY. WORK'S BEEN A BIT PATCHY SINCE LOCKDOWN STARTED.

WHO'S IN THE BAND AND HOW DID IT START?

I'M ON GUITAR, JAMIE HARRIS IS ON DRUMS, SETH SALIH IS ON BASS AND OLI DUNK IS ON VOCALS. I PLAYED WITH JAMIE AND SETH IN WORLD WEARY AND TARGET LOCK, AND WE'VE ALL BEEN GOOD FRIENDS WITH OLI FOR YEARS, SO IT'S VERY MUCH A BUNCH OF OLD MATES PLAYING MUSIC TOGETHER. SETH ALSO PLAYS IN STIFF MEDS, OLI PLAYS IN ZEK, I USED TO PLAY IN DOWNWARD SPIRAL AND JAMIE USED TO PLAY IN TRANSCENDENCE. AS FOR HOW THE BAND STARTED, I REACHED OUT TO JAMIE SOMETIME IN I BELIEVE MAY OF LAST YEAR (2019) WITH THE IDEA, AND WE STARTED WRITING STRAIGHT AWAY. A FEW MONTHS LATER, ONCE WE HAD A FEW SONGS WRITTEN, WE SENT DEMOS OF THEM TO OLI AND HE WAS INTO IT, SO HE JOINED ON VOCALS. SETH IS THE NEWEST ADDITION. WE GOT THE NAME "BURN ALIVE" FROM A LINE IN HATEBREED'S "NOT ONE TRUTH" - JAMIE AND I WERE PLANNING TO USE IT FOR A MORE SITDOD-INFLUENCED BAND WE WERE WRITING FOR A FEW YEARS BACK THAT KINDA WENT NOWHERE, BUT WE STILL LIKED THE NAME SO WE DECIDED TO JUST USE IT FOR THIS INSTEAD.

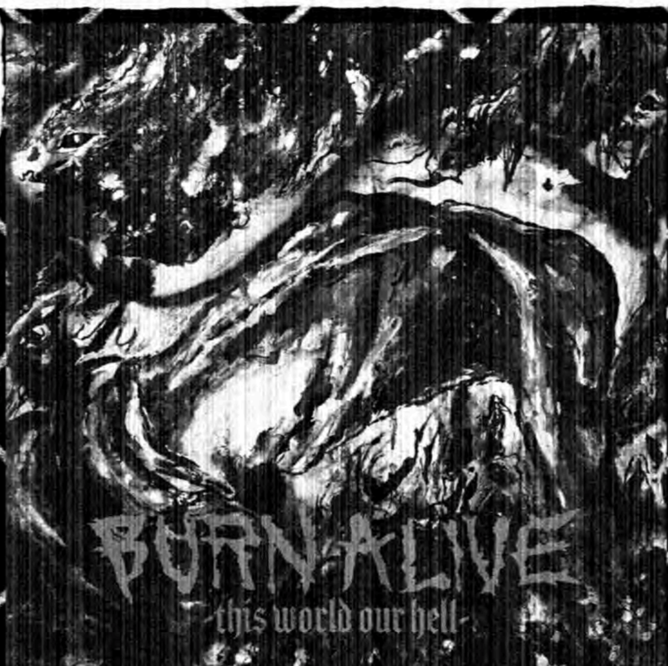
REC'S UKHC RETURNS WILL BE YOUR FIRST SHOW, RIGHT? HOW DOES IT FEEL BEING A NEW BAND ON SUCH A CRAZY LINEUP?

WE GOT A BIT UNLUCKY WITH HOW THINGS PANNED OUT. WE WERE ACTUALLY BOOKED INTO THE STUDIO TO RECORD OUR DEMO LITERALLY ABOUT TWO DAYS AFTER THE FIRST LOCKDOWN STARTED! WE WERE ALSO BOOKED ON WHAT WAS MEANT TO BE OUR FIRST SHOW AT THAT STAGE (WITH REVULSION I THINK?) BUT NOW, WITH HOW EVERYTHING'S TURNED OUT, UKHC RETURNS IS INDEED LOOKING LIKE IT'LL BE OUR FIRST SHOW. WE'RE OBVIOUSLY CRAZY EXCITED FOR IT. THE READY EYE GUYS HAVE ALWAYS SMASHED IT BUT I THINK THIS WEEKEND WILL BE ON ANOTHER LEVEL. SO MANY GREAT BANDS AND AN ENTIRELY UK LINEUP. I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE PENT UP ENERGY THAT WILL BE RELEASED IN THAT ROOM AFTER ALL THIS TIME. ONLY A FEW YEARS BACK, PEOPLE WOULD GET GENUINELY EXCITED ABOUT A LINEUP WITH ALL UK BANDS, BUT RECENTLY IT FEELS LIKE UKHC HAS BEEN SLIPPING BACK INTO THE TREND OF JUMPING ON ANYTHING AMERICAN WHILE IGNORING WHAT WE HAVE HERE AT HOME. I HONESTLY THINK UKHC RETURNS COULD PLAY A BIG ROLE IN CHANGING ALL THAT.

I'LL BE HONEST, BURN ALIVE SIT IN A LITTLE CORNER OF HARDCORE THAT I'VE NEVER REALLY EXPLORED. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF?

QUITE A FEW PEOPLE HAVE ASKED US STUFF LIKE THIS, AND IT'S COOL TO SEE BECAUSE IN A WAY IT KIND OF SUGGESTS WE'VE ACHIEVED WHAT WE SET OUT TO. AROUND THE TIME THE BAND STARTED I REALISED THAT I DON'T LISTEN TO AS MUCH OF THE MORE "METALLIC" END OF HARDCORE, WHICH I LOVE, AS I USED TO BECAUSE A LOT OF THE SONGS AREN'T WRITTEN THE WAY I KINDA WISH THEY WERE. YOU'LL GET SONGS THAT ARE LIKE 5 MINUTES LONG, BUT YOU HAVE TO WAIT 3 MINUTES FOR THAT ONE REALLY HARD RIFF AND THEN THE REST OF THE TIME YOU'RE JUST BORED. IT'S NOT ALL LIKE THIS, OBVIOUSLY, BUT I THINK THERE'S DEFINITELY ROOM TO SHAKE THINGS UP A BIT. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE IN A LOT OF WAYS METALLIC HARDCORE HAS MOVED AWAY FROM ITS HARDCORE PUNK ROOTS, BUT IT DEFINITELY DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LIKE THAT. WE'RE ALL INTO BANDS LIKE NEGATIVE APPROACH AND INFEST, WHERE THE PACE AND INTENSITY AND EXCITEMENT OF THE MUSIC IS LARGELY DOWN TO THE SPEED OF IT AND THE NO-NONSENSE, NO-FILLER APPROACH TAKEN. SONGS ARE SHORT AND TO THE POINT, THEY DON'T NEED TO TAKE UP YOUR TIME. WHY NOT APPLY THE SAME PHILOSOPHY TO SOMETHING ON THE HEAVIER END OF THE SPECTRUM?

SO YEAH, THAT'S BASICALLY WHERE THE WHOLE IDEA OF BURN ALIVE COMES FROM. WE'RE AS MUCH INFLUENCED BY GRINDCORE, POWERVIOLENCE AND FAST HARDCORE PUNK BANDS AS WE ARE BY METALCORE AND METALLIC HARDCORE. WE'RE MORE TRYING TO MAKE THE MUSIC THAT WE WANT TO MAKE AND WISH WE WERE LISTENING TO THAN TO FIT INTO ANY SPECIFIC PIGEONHOLE.



I DUG THE EARLY CONVERGE STUFF AND THERE'S A COUPLE OF DILLINGER ALBUMS THAT ARE COOL, WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU RECOMMEND TO NEW LISTENERS OF THE CHAOTIC HARDCORE STUFF?

YOU'LL WANT TO LISTEN TO RORSCHACH. I MEAN, THEY'RE ARGUABLY THE BAND THAT INVENTED METALCORE ANYWAY, BY COMBINING THE WEIRDER ELEMENTS OF 80S METAL WITH A LOT OF WHAT WAS GOING ON IN HARDCORE AND POWERVIOLENCE AT THE TIME - IN A WAY THEY FOLLOWED A VERY SIMILAR BLUEPRINT TO US AND ARE DEFINITELY ONE OF OUR BIGGEST INFLUENCES AS A BAND. CHECK OUT REMAIN SEDATE/PROTESTANT, IT'S ON SPOTIFY. SAME GOES FOR DEADGUY, WHICH MEMBERS OF RORSCHACH WENT ON TO FORM SHORTLY AFTER. I'VE NEVER BEEN THAT INTO TDEP BUT CONVERGE, AS YOU SAID, ARE OBVIOUSLY ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT BANDS IN THIS WHOLE LINEAGE. PETITIONING THE EMPTY SKY, JANE DOE AND YOU FAIL ME ARE ALL UNTOUCHABLE RECORDS. ALSO CHECK OUT BOTCH'S "WE ARE THE ROMANS" AND NORMA JEAN'S "O GOD THE AFTERMATH".

I MAY AS WELL GO INTO SOME MORE OF OUR INFLUENCES HERE, SINCE LIKE I'VE SAID, WE NEVER REALLY SET OUT TO BE "CHAOTIC HARDCORE" PER SE - I FEEL LIKE THAT'S JUST AN ADMITTEDLY FAIRLY APPROPRIATE LABEL THAT'S BEEN GIVEN TO US AFTER THE FACT: OTHER 90S METALCORE BANDS LIKE TURMOIL, ADAMANTIUM, GRIMLOCK AND ACME; ANYTHING IN THE REALM OF FAST HARDCORE LIKE INFEST, NEGATIVE APPROACH, DISCHARGE, NAPALM DEATH (WHO WE COVERED ON THE COMING STRIFE'S FLAME OF UDUN COMP), NAILS, BASTARD, CROSSED OUT, DESPISE YOU; TO BE HONEST, WE'LL HAPPILY DRAW INFLUENCE FROM PRETTY MUCH ANYTHING WE'RE INTO MUSICALLY IF WE CAN FIND A WAY. I GOTTA ADMIT I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO A LOT OF THE RECENT WAVE OF BEATDOWN THAT'S BEEN COMING OUT OF THE US (THREE KNEE DEEP, SECTOR, MH CHAOS ETC) AND EVEN SOME OF THAT HAS FOUND ITS WAY IN. I ALSO KNOW THAT A LOT OF CRUSTY STUFF LIKE DYSTOPIA IS A BIG INFLUENCE ON OLI'S VOCAL STYLE, AND LYRICALLY HE'S INFLUENCED HEAVILY BY THE MORE INTROSPECTIVE/MENTAL HEALTH THEMES ACROSS THE PUNK/HARDCORE/METAL SPECTRUM.

> ***"ONLY A FEW YEARS BACK, PEOPLE WOULD GET GENUINELY EXCITED ABOUT A LINEUP WITH ALL UK BANDS, BUT RECENTLY IT FEELS LIKE UKHC HAS BEEN SLIPPING BACK INTO THE TREND OF JUMPING ON ANYTHING AMERICAN WHILE IGNORING WHAT WE HAVE HERE AT HOME. I HONESTLY THINK UKHC RETURNS COULD PLAY A BIG ROLE IN CHANGING ALL THAT."***

LISTEN TO BURN ALIVE HERE

I UNDERSTAND YOU RECORDED SOME STUFF AT HOME AND SOME IN THE STUDIO, DID THAT MAKE IT MORE COMPLICATED THAN USUAL?

THAT WOULD BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT. RECORDING THE DEMO IN LOCKDOWN, WITH MEMBERS ALL OVER THE PLACE, ACTUALLY TURNED INTO A PRETTY HUGE MESS. IN FACT, I'M KIND OF AMAZED LOOKING BACK THAT WE EVEN MANAGED TO MAKE IT WORK CONSIDERING HOW ABSURD THE WHOLE PROCESS WAS. LIKE I SAID, WE WERE BOOKED INTO THE STUDIO RIGHT AFTER THE LOCKDOWN STARTED SO WE HAD TO CANCEL THE WHOLE THING. AT FIRST WE DECIDED TO JUST WAIT IT OUT, BUT AS IT DAWNED ON US THAT LOCKDOWN MEASURES WERE LIKELY TO CONTINUE IN SOME FORM FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE WE DECIDED TO TRY AND WORK SOMETHING OUT. I RECORDED THE GUITARS AND BASS AT HOME, AND I LITERALLY SENT MY DAD'S CONDENSER MIC TO OLI VIA ROYAL MAIL SO HE COULD RECORD THE VOCALS. OLI, STAYING WITH FAMILY IN NORFOLK AT THE TIME, HAD TO FIND SOME TINY LITTLE CUPBOARD AWAY FROM HIS EXTENDED FAMILY TO SET UP THE WEIRDEST MAKESHIFT VOCAL BOOTH YOU'VE EVER SEEN. WITH LOCKDOWN MEASURES CONTINUING AND STUDIOS CLOSED, THE BIGGEST PROBLEM WAS THE DRUMS; WE ENDED UP DECIDING TO JUST PROGRAM THEM. NOW, I'VE ALWAYS FELT THAT PROGRAMMED DRUMS JUST DON'T WORK FOR ANYTHING LIKE HARDCORE THAT'S MEANT TO HAVE AN AUTHENTICITY TO THE SOUND, BUT WE CONVINCED OURSELVES THAT THE FAIRLY UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE SITUATION JUSTIFIED IT IN THIS CASE. SO WE SENT EVERYTHING OFF TO BOULTY AT STUCK ON A NAME FOR MIXING. WHEN WE HEARD THE PROGRAMMED DRUMS BACK WE JUST WEREN'T REALLY SATISFIED - LUCKILY, AT THIS STAGE, THE RESTRICTIONS WERE EASING AND WE WERE ABLE TO GET INTO A STUDIO FOR DRUMS. THAT IN ITSELF WAS A CHALLENGE AS JAMIE HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET BEHIND A REAL KIT FOR MONTHS AT THIS POINT. BUT SOMEHOW, WE MADE IT THROUGH.

DID YOU WRITE THIS WORLD OUR HELL AS A GROUP, OR WAS IT MORE OF A HOME-PROJECT FOR YOU?

I WORKED CLOSELY WITH JAMIE TO WRITE THE INSTRUMENTS. THIS IS THE THIRD BAND I'VE BEEN IN WITH HIM (NOT INCLUDING A FEW DEAD-END PROJECTS) AND WE'VE DEVELOPED A PRETTY GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP THROUGH THAT, MAINLY BASED ON JUST SENDING IDEAS BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN EACH OTHER AND EITHER IMPROVING OR SCRAPPING THEM UNTIL WE'RE HAPPY WITH WHAT WE HAVE. OLI THEN PUTS HIS LYRICS OVER THE TOP, FAIRLY STANDARD STUFF.

FOR ANYONE THAT'S NEVER RECORDED AT HOME, IT CAN BE FUCKING INFURIATING, AND I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THAT'S EVEN WORSE WHEN THE RIFFS ARE TECHY. WAS THERE ANY POINTS WHERE YOU LOST IT AT ALL?
YEAH, IT GOT PRETTY ROUGH AT TIMES. I'M A PERFECTIONIST WHEN IT COMES TO RECORDING GUITARS, WHICH NATURALLY TRANSLATES INTO SPENDING QUITE A LOT OF TIME GETTING THINGS RIGHT. WORK WAS A NIGHTMARE AT THAT TIME, TOO, SO FOR A GOOD 2-3 WEEKS MY LIFE WAS PRETTY MUCH NOTHING BUT WORK AND RECORDING. IT BECOMES EVEN MORE OF A PROBLEM WHEN YOU'RE HAVING TO TAKE UP LOADS OF SPACE AND MAKE LOADS OF NOISE WHILE LIVING WITH TWO OTHER PEOPLE WHO ARE ALSO STUCK AT HOME FROM THE LOCKDOWN. VERY STRESSFUL.

WHO MIXED AND MASTERED THE EP?
IAN BOULT AT STUCK ON A NAME IN NOTTINGHAM. JAMIE AND MYSELF HAVE BEEN GOING TO HIM FOR YEARS FOR VARIOUS BANDS AND HE ALWAYS DOES A GOOD JOB. HE HAS AN IMPRESSIVE BACK CATALOGUE AS FAR AS UKHC IS CONCERNED, TOO (THE XREPENTANCEX LP WAS DONE WITH HIM I BELIEVE). SOAN IS CURRENTLY STRUGGLING DUE TO THE EFFECTS OF COVID, SO TO ANYONE READING, I IMPLORE YOU TO LOOK UP "SAVE OUR SOAN" AND IF YOU CAN, DONATE A BIT OF MONEY. IT'S NOT JUST A RECORDING STUDIO, IT'S ALSO AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT DIY VENUE FOR OUR SCENE.

BURN ALIVE
this world our hell
BURN ALIVE

THE COMING STRIFE RECORDS

HOW DID YOU FIND IT WORKING WITH OLI AT TCS? THE TAPES LOOKED WICKED, ARE YOU HAPPY WITH HOW THEY CAME OUT?
YEAH, IT WAS GREAT. I GOT A TON OF RESPECT FOR OJ, HE PUT THE LABEL'S FIRST RELEASE OUT IN 2019 AND HAS COME SO FAR WITH IT ALREADY. JUST SHOWS WHAT YOU CAN DO WHEN YOU'RE READY TO PUT THE WORK IN. HE'S SUCH A CHILL GUY AND IS ALWAYS EASY TO WORK WITH. HE HAD THE IDEA TO DO OUR LOGO AS AN ON-BODY PRINT ON THE TAPES AND THE RESULTS CAME OUT LOOKING NAILS, I GOTTA SAY.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS FOR THE FUTURE, ANY FURTHER RELEASES OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT?
WE'RE CURRENTLY DEEP INTO THE PROCESS OF WRITING OUR NEXT RELEASE, ALTHOUGH WE'RE NOT YET CERTAIN WHAT FORM THAT WILL TAKE. ONE THING'S FOR SURE THOUGH, AND THAT'S THAT WE'LL HAVE SOME NEW SONGS READY TO PLAY AS SOON AS SHOWS START AGAIN.

THANKS MAN, ANY SHOUTOUTS OR ANYTHING YOU WANNA SAY?
BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE, REST IN PEACE JONATHAN KIRK. I NEVER REALLY KNEW HIM MYSELF, BUT I UNDERSTAND YOU WERE VERY CLOSE WITH HIM AND OBVIOUSLY, THE OTHER GUYS IN CRUELTY ARE GOOD FRIENDS OF OURS. IT'S A DEVASTATING LOSS AND IT'S SO SAD SEEING OUR COMMUNITY LOSE SO MANY GOOD PEOPLE DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES. I REALLY HOPE THIS TREND DOESN'T CONTINUE. FROM ALL OF US, ALL OUR BEST WISHES TO YOU AND ALL HIS OTHER FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

OTHER THAN THAT, I GUESS JUST A SHOUT OUT TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AND EVERYONE WHO'S SUPPORTED US AS A BAND. BIG UP FUZZBRAIN STUDIOS WHO WE RECORDED DRUMS WITH FOR THE COMING STRIFE COMP, BEN'S A GREAT GUY AND THE PLACE IS A FIXTURE OF CURRENT LONDON HARDCORE. HE'S HAD TO DEAL WITH HIS WHOLE PLACE BURNING DOWN WHICH SUCKS SO MUCH. I'M NOT SURE IF FUNDRAISERS FOR THAT ARE STILL RUNNING BUT KEEP AN EYE OUT AND IF POSSIBLE GIVE WHAT YOU CAN. ALSO SHOUT OUT TO MY COUSIN JESS WILLIAMS (@LAND.MASS) WHO SORTED OUT OUR SICK AS FUCK ARTWORK AND CIARáN Ó'NUALLáIN (@SHADOWCRAFT666) WHO DID OUR SICK AS FUCK LOGO. ALSO, GO LISTEN TO THE MALIGNANT METHODS DEMO AND THE NEW STIFF MEDS ALBUM

CHECK OUT THIS WORLD OUR HELL ON STREAMING PLATFORMS NOW, AND GET DOWN TO READY EYE COLLECTIVE'S UKHC RETURNS WEEKENDER TO SEE BURN ALIVE'S FIRST SHOW

READY EYE COLLECTIVE

UPSURGE

READY EYE COLLECTIVE
AND
UPSURGE
PRESENTS:

UKHC RETURNS

FEATURING

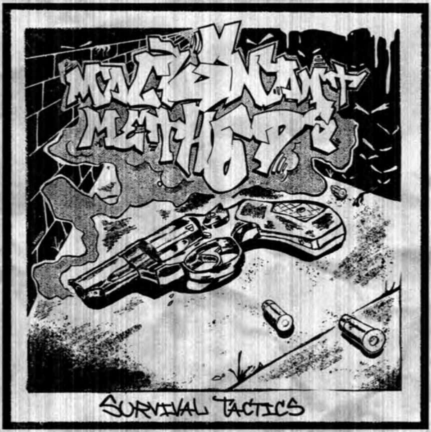
BROKEN TEETH
RENOUNCED
(REQUEST SET)
BRUTALITY WILL PREVAIL
GROVE STREET FAMILIES
VOORHEES
PROWLER
THE FLEX
REVULSION
CHUBBY & the GANG
UXBRIDGE ROAD
SPLIT KNUCKLE
FIFTY CALIBER
CHAMBER
(ONE OFF LDN REUNION)
IRONED OUT
PAYDAY
LAST WISHES
HIGH VIS
GAME
CRUELTY
STAGES IN FAITH
LAWFUL KILLING
MASTERMIND
INGRAINED
STIFF MEDS
MANIFEST
INFRACTION
vent
BURN ALIVE
MOVEMENT METHOD

DATES TBA
VENUE TBA
LONDON, UK

MORE INFORMATION AS SOON
AS WE CAN BRING IT TO YOU.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED PATIENCE
AND SUPPORT.

REVIEW CORNER



MALIGNANT METHODS - SURVIVAL TACTICS

A THREE TRACK DEMO FROM THE MIND OF ALFIE COF/LAST WISHES. THE FIRST THING I NOTICED WAS HOW LONG THE SONGS ARE, AVERAGING JUST OVER 4 MINS. I USUALLY GET BORED AFTER THE 2:30 MARK (HENCE MY LOVE OF HARDCORE AND HATRED OF METALLICA...) BUT THERE'S ENOUGH VARIATION IN THE RIFFS TO KEEP THIS WHOLE RELEASE INTERESTING.

THIS HITS HARD FROM THE START, THE RIFFS AND PACE ARE UNFORGIVING, EVEN IN THE BROKEN DOWN SECTIONS. THE KICK DRUM HITS LIKE A JACKHAMMER WHEN IT NEEDS TO, AND GIVES ROOM FOR THE RIFFS TO BREATHE WHEN IT'S DONE. THERE'S NO TRACE OF SUBTLETY HERE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME THERE DOESN'T NEED TO BE - MALIGNANT METHODS JUST WANT YOU TO GET HYPED UP AND FUCKED OFF. THE PRODUCTION IS REALLY FITTING, VERY CAUSTIC AND AGGY SOUNDING - THERE'S NOTHING WORSE IN THE WORLD THAN OVERPRODUCED BEATDOWN.

SURVIVAL TACTICS HAS GOT THE UNMISTAKABLE GRIT OF UKHC - ALFIE CITES SPECIAL MOVE AND BEATDOWN FURY AS INFLUENCES, AND I CAN HEAR HEAVY INFLUENCES FROM BOTH THOSE BANDS, WITH SOMETHING EXTRA ON TOP. IT'S HARD TO MAKE A BEATDOWN RECORD WHERE ALL THE SONGS SOUND DIFFERENT, BUT SURVIVAL TACTICS PULLS IT OFF BIG TIME. STANDOUT SONG FOR ME IS SURVIVAL TACTICS, IT'S GOT HEFTY DOSES OF THE MACHINE GUN KICK DRUM, FIGHT RIFFS AND SICK HARMONISED RIFFS.

DESPIZE - DEMO 2

SCOTLAND'S HARDCORE, UKHC'S MOST EXCITING BAND OF 2020 (IN MY OPINION ANYWAY). DESPIZE ARE BACK AGAIN WITH MORE OF THE SAME TOUGH, ANGRY, METALLIC HARDCORE. WE'VE REVIEWED THEM A COUPLE TIMES OVER THE COURSE OF MENTALLY VEXED'S LIFETIME, SO ANYTHING ELSE WE COULD SAY ABOUT THE BAND IN PARTICULAR WOULD BE REPEATING OURSELVES.

THIS RELEASE THOUGH COMES OFF THE BACK OF THEIR HIGHLY RATED FIRST DEMO, AND THEIR HARD AS FUCKING NAILS SUBMISSION TO THE OSU COMPILATION. DEMO 2 IS WHAT YOU'VE TO EXPECT FROM THIS BAND, JUST STRAIGHT UP TOUGH AND PUNISHINGLY HARD GOON MUSIC, EXCEPT THIS TIME, AT THE END OF THE LAST SONG WE'RE TREATED TO SOMETHING THAT SOUNDS LIKE PAUSE SCREEN MUSIC FROM SHENMUE FOR THE SEGA DREAMCAST. LITTLE EASTER EGG, BUT COOL IN MY BOOK. EXPECT BIG SHIT FROM THIS BAND IN 2021, WHETHER THAT BE DEMO 3 OR A LONGER RELEASE, EITHER WAY HERE AT MV WE'RE ALL FUCKING EXCITED FOR IT.

Demo 2
DESPIZE

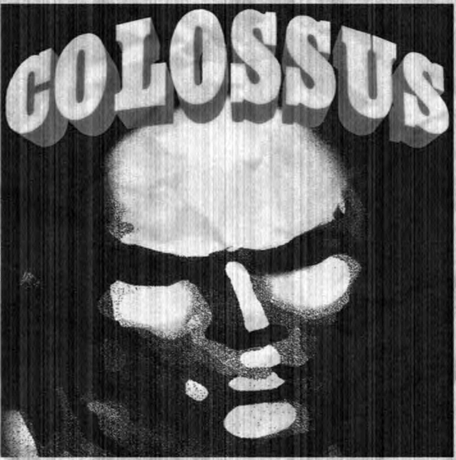
GREED - THE PURGE OF EARTH

2021 IS ALREADY SHAPING UP TO BE GREAT YEAR FOR UKHC, AND WHAT BETTER WAY TO KICK IT OFF THAN WITH GREED'S LATEST OFFERING, THE PURGE OF EARTH. HAILING FROM THE NORTH OF ENGLAND, LEEDS, GREED HAVE ENCAPSULATED A REAL UKHC SOUND ON THIS RECORD WITH REALLY DEFINED INFLUENCES IN THE SONIC RANGE. UNDERNEATH THE METALLIC HARDCORE EDGE OF THE RECORD YOU CAN HEAR A LOT OF INFLUENCE FROM BANDS SUCH AS SPLITKNUCKLE, RAIDEN AND SPECIAL MOVE WHILST ALSO SOUNDING LOOSELY SIMILAR TO MORE RECENT UK BANDS SUCH AS SPLINTERED AND REVULSION.

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT IS, THAT THERE ARE SIX REALLY HARD AND VISCERAL OFFERINGS OF REAL UK HARDCORE. AND THAT SHOULD BE THE REAL SELLING POINT, AS THIS IS REAL FUCKING HARDCORE FROM OUR SHORES. UKHC ON TOP FOREVER.
(P.S - VERY LIMITED COPIES OF THE CD VIA FWH RECORDS IN THE MV STORE!)

COLOSSUS - DEMO 2021

COLOSSUS IS MEMBERS OF MINDFORCE/ AGE OF APOCALYPSE/INDECISION, AMONGST OTHER PROJECTS, WHO DELIVER TO US A FRESH DEMO WITH A UNIQUE IDEA BEHIND IT. GOING INTO THIS KNOWING THAT ITS MEMBERS SHARED SO MANY DIFFERENT PROJECTS, I WAS ADMITTEDLY NERVOUS THAT IT WOULD JUST END UP SOUNDING LIKE THEIR RESPECTIVE BANDS ALL HAPHAZARDLY MASHED INTO ONE INCOHERENT MESS. INSTEAD COLOSSUS BRINGS US A INCREDIBLE FRESH SOUND WITH A UNIQUE FOCUS ON INSTRUMENT USE AND COMPOSITION. THE BANDS AIM TO BRING THE BASS TO THE FOREFRONT IS DEFINITELY ACHIEVED HERE AS IT RUMBLES DOMINANTLY THROUGHOUT EVERY TRACK. THE DRUMS PERFECTLY FIT THIS STYLE AS WELL, AS JAYS DRUM PERFORMANCE GIVES THAT GRITTY PERCUSSIVE BOOM THAT ELEVATES THE RUMBLING BASS EVEN FURTHER INTO THE LISTENERS EARS AND HELPS DRIVE THE TRACK FORWARD. THE GUITARS PLAY A MUCH MORE SUPPORTING ROLE IN THE TRACKS, FORGOING THE USUALLY FRILL-FILLED GUITAR RIFFS THAT ARE A STAPLE OF THE NORTH-EAST AND INSTEAD OPTING TO GET NICE & GRITTY IN THE LOW END AND FOLLOW THE BASS TRAIL. HOWEVER THIS DOESN'T MEAN THE GUITARS STEP FULLY AWAY FROM THE FOREFRONT, WITH A REVERB DRENCHED SOARING GUITAR SOLO BURSTING OUT IN "MILES AWAY". FINALLY, FANS OF EARLY 2000S NYC HARDCORE WILL BE EXCITED TO HEAR TOM SHEEHAN'S FURY FILLED VOCALS SPILLING ONTO THIS TRACK. HIS FIRST PROJECT IN RECENT MEMORY, TOM'S HIGHER RANGE VOCALS LEND ITSELF INCREDIBLY WELL TO THIS PROJECT, WITH THEM JUXTAPOSING THE LOW END RUMBLING. FANS OF WHAT THE NORTH-EAST HAS BROUGHT IN RECENT YEARS WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED, AND PEOPLE LOOKING FOR NO-FRILLS HEAVY-GROOVE HC WILL FEEL RIGHT AT HOME WITH THIS DEMO.



VARIOUS - FLAME OF UDUN: TCS COVERS COMP

BURN ALIVE
-this world our hell-

NOW; I'M NOT GONNA LIE, WHEN I FIRST HEARD ABOUT THIS COMP, I WAS DUBIOUS TO SAY THE LEAST. COVERS ARE A TRICKY THING TO PULL OFF IN HEAVY MUSIC, LET ALONE A WHOLE ALBUM OF THEM. OBVIOUSLY, IF ANYONE WAS GONNA DO IT, THEN THE COMING STRIFE WOULD PULL IT OFF. AND THEY REALLY HAVE IN MY OPINION.

IT CERTAINLY HELPS THAT THEY HAVE SUCH A SIZEABLE LIST OF BANDS TO CALL ON TO CONTRIBUTE.. SOME OF MY FAVOURITE ACTS AND SOME I HADN'T REALLY LISTENED TO MUCH BEFORE WHICH ALL MAKES FOR AN INTERESTING LISTEN.

IT'S KIND OF HARD TO REVIEW A COMPILATION OF COVERS, CAN'T REALLY SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE SONGS THEMSELVES. BUT ALL THE BANDS CERTAINLY STEPPED UP TO THE PLATE BRINGING BRILLIANTLY EXECUTED COVERS OF A GOOD ASSORTMENT OF SONGS. ALL OF THEM ARE RECORDED TO A REALLY HIGH STANDARD, I PERSONALLY EXPECTED SOMETHING NOT SO WELL DONE. YOU WOULDN'T BLAME PEOPLE FOR HASTILY PLANNING AND RECORDING THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AND USING THE TIME ON THEIR OWN RELEASES. BUT THAT'S CERTAINLY NOT THE CASE.

MY PERSONAL FAVOURITES ARE PHAZE TWO'S COVER OF HATEBREED'S 'TEAR IT DOWN. AND THE MIGHTY SPLITKNUCKLE'S VERSION OF SEPULTURA'S 'TERRITORY' (EVERYTHING THEY TOUCH SEEMS TO TURN TO GOLD!). AND COME ON; IF THAT'S NOT THE BEST SMITHS COVER YOU'VE EVER HEARD FROM CRUELTY, THEN YOU HAVEN'T LISTENED TO ENOUGH SMITHS COVERS.

THE COMING STRIFE RECORDS
FLAME OF UDUN

BURN ALIVE - THIS WORLD OUR HELL

HAILING FROM THE UK'S CAPITAL CITY, LONDON (NOT BIRMINGHAM UNFORTUNATELY), FEATURING MEMBERS OF WORLD WEARY, STIFF MEDS AND DOWNWARD SPIRAL, BURN ALIVE DELIVER THIS 2020 OFFERING OF CHAOTIC AND HECTIC CONVERGE-CORE.

LACED WITH CRUNCHY AND GRITTY GUITAR TONES, POUNDING RHYTHMS AND MATH-ROCK INSPIRED PASSAGES, COUPLED WITH FAST PACED AND FRANTIC DRUMS AND A FORCEFULLY PAINED VOCAL STYLE, BURN ALIVE SERVE UP ONE OF THE MOST CAREFULLY CRAFTED AND FINELY TUNED MUSICAL OFFERINGS FROM UKHC LAST YEAR.
SIX TRACKS OF CHAOS IS THE BEST WAY TO DESCRIBE THIS RELEASE. EIGHT MINUTES AND 24 SECONDS OF EVIL AND DAUNTING INTRICATE METALLIC HARDCORE WHICH DELIVERS AN EDGE OF YOUR SEAT EXPERIENCE, LEAVING YOU FEELING SPUN UPSIDE DOWN. THE STAND OUT TRACK ON THIS RECORD FOR ME WAS "PAIN OF MIND", WHICH IS ARGUABLY THE MOST MATURE SONG ON THE RECORD IN TERMS OF ITS COMPOSITION AND MUSICALITY.
IF CONVERGE AND CRUELTY ARE BANDS THAT YOU LIKE, THEN YOU'LL THOROUGHLY ENJOY THIS.

WHISPERS – NAROK BON DIN

BANGKOK, THAILAND METALLIC HARDCORE OUTFIT WHISPERS DELIVERS TO US NAROK BON DIN, A 20ISH MINUTE LONG EP WITH 6 BACK-TO-BACK SKULL POUNDING, METAL INFUSED HARDCORE TRACKS. THIS EP HAS SET A VERY HIGH BENCHMARK FOR THE MANY RECORDS TO FOLLOW THIS YEAR.

WHISPERS SET THE PACE ON THE INTRO TRACK, WITH CLASSIC METALCORE LEAD RIFFS PUNCTUATED WITH CRUSHING LOW END BREAKDOWNS. THE NEXT 5 TRACKS OF CLASSIC METALLIC HARDCORE SHOW THE GROUP FLEXING THEIR STRENGTHS, THE BASS KEEPING UP WITH BOTH THE CRUSHING LOW END RIFFS WELL AS THE FASTER LEAD AECTIONS. THE CONSISTENT DRUM PERFORMANCE MARRIES PERFECTLY WITH THE STRINGS WHILST NOT RELEGATING ITSELF TO MERE TIMEKEEPING DUTIES - FAST AND TECHNICAL FILLS LET YOU KNOW THAT THE DRUMMER HAS JUST AS MUCH TECHNICAL PROWESS AS HIS BAND MATES. BASED ON INSTRUMENTALS ALONE, THIS EP WOULD BE A SOLID 8/10, A STELLAR DEBUT FROM A BAND WITH A VERY PROMISING FUTURE. HOWEVER, I THINK THE VOCALS WELL AND TRULY CATAPULT THIS EP FROM A GREAT RECORD INTO A GENRE STAPLE. THE VOCALIST HAS AN AGGRESSIVE MID-RANGE VOCAL STYLE REMINISCENT OF THE EARLY METALCORE INFLUENCES WHISPERS WEAR SO LOVINGLY ON THEIR SLEEVES. THE MERGING OF THE LEAD VOCALS WITH THE DEEPER RANGE BACKING VOCALS, CREATE THIS RELENTLESS PRESENCE THAT DOES MORE THAN JUST MERELY SIT ON TOP OF THE INSTRUMENTAL, INSTEAD CREATING A RELENTLESS AUDIO ASSAULT WHICH MAKES NAROK BON DIN A THRILL TO LISTEN TO.

WHISPERS
Narok Bon Din

IRONED OUT
WE MOVE AS ONE

IRONED OUT – WE MOVE AS ONE

AS YOU'D EXPECT, THE TRADEMARK LBU SWAGGER AND STOMP IS ALL OVER THIS RECORD, BUT THERE'S SO MANY OTHER INFLUENCES HERE TOO. THIS IS DEFINITELY THE KIND OF RECORD THAT CAN ONLY COME FROM A CITY AS RICH IN DIVERSITY AND MULTICULTURALISM AS LONDON.

IRONED OUT MOVE SEAMLESSLY BETWEEN MEATY STOMP RIFFS AND CHILLED MELODIC PASSAGES. LOUIS GINO AND DAVE MAKBOO GO BACKWARDS AND FORWARDS TRADING DIRTY ROUGH VOX AND GRIME LINES - THE TWIN VOCALIST APPROACH CAN EASILY FALL FLAT, BUT IRONED OUT'S PAIR OF FRONTMEN PLAY OFF EACH OTHER IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT MASSIVELY WORKS IN THE BANDS FAVOUR. WELL-WRITTEN GUITAR LEADS COME UP JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP THINGS FRESH, MOST NOTABLY IN "ALL HOPE IS LOST". THESE TASTEFUL AND FITTING SOLOS AND LEADS ARE OBVIOUSLY WRITTEN SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PARTS THEY'RE NEEDED IN, THERE'S NO SHRED GUITAR WANKERY HERE. IT'S REFRESHING TO HEAR A BASS THAT DOESN'T JUST FOLLOW THE GUITAR RIFFS – JUST ANOTHER THING THAT SETS IRONED OUT APART. THERE'S PLENTY OF TWO STEP RIFFS AND GANG SHOUTS TOO, THESE SONGS WILL GO OFF LIVE.

ALL 4 OF US AT MVR LOVED THE WHOLE RECORD, BUT IT'S DIVERSE ENOUGH THAT THERE'S SOMETHING HERE TO PLEASE EVERYBODY, NO MATTER WHAT YOU'RE INTO. MY PERSONAL HIGHLIGHT IS 6 WEEKS, I'M A SUCKER FOR A GOOD GUITAR HOOK AND THE GANG SHOUTS ARE MASSIVE.

GRIDIRON – LOYALTY AT ALL COSTS

GRIDIRON (A PENNSYLVANIA OUTFIT FEATURING MEMBERS OF YEAR OF THE KNIFE AND NEVER ENDING GAME) DROPPED LOYALTY AT ALL COSTS IN LATE 2020, AN IMMEDIATE GOON TUNE CLASSIC WITH HIP HOP INSPIRATION IN ITS VEINS.

THE BAND FORGETS THE MEANING OF SUBTLETY IN THIS EP WITH EVERY TRACK ROTATING CONSTANTLY BETWEEN CRUSHING MOSH RIFFS AND TWO STEP PARTS. WHILST NOT EXACTLY PUSHING THE BOAT OUT EXPERIMENTALLY IN ITS SOUND OR SONG STRUCTURE, THE BAND TAKES THE FORMULA OF A GOOD OLD GOON TUNE AND EXECUTES IT TO PERFECTION, PROVIDING US WITH AN AUDIO ASSAULT OF CRUSHING GUITAR AND BASS (THAT ISN'T AFRAID TO STEP AWAY FROM THE FIRST 4 FRETS OF THE GUITAR) BACKED UP BY A DRIVING DRUM PERFORMANCE.

THE EP SPLITS OPINION WITH ITS HIP HOP INSPIRED AGGRESSIVE RAPPED/SHOUTED LEAD VOCAL PERFORMANCES. THIS STYLE OF VOCAL DELIVERY HAS LONG BEEN A DOUBLE EDGE SWORD, AS THERE IS A FINE LINE BETWEEN SOUNDING TOUGH AND SOUNDING LIKE AN 11 YEAR OLD KID IN A CALL OF DUTY LOBBY. AS A FAN OF THE VOCAL STYLE, I THINK IT'S EXECUTED VERY WELL WITH THE VOCALIST NEVER SOUNDING ANYTHING LESS THAN AUTHENTICALLY AGGRESSIVE THROUGHOUT, WITH TRADITIONAL STYLE HC VOCALS BEING PROVIDED AS BACKING THROUGHOUT. THIS GIVES SOME VARIETY IN THE VOCALS, MAKING SURE THE SOUND NEVER GETS REPETITIVE AT ANY POINT.

GRIDIRON
Loyalty at all Costs

Climate of Fear
stained with a dismal beauty

CLIMATE OF FEAR - STAINED WITH A DISMAL BEAUTY

ARGUABLY ONE OF UKHC'S FINEST EXPORTS OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS, THEY REALLY DO BRING ANOTHER LEVEL TO THEIR MUSICAL MASTERY WITH THEIR LATEST OFFERING STAINED WITH A DISMAL BEAUTY. DRAWING INFLUENCES HEAVILY FROM SWEDISH MELO-DEATH GIANTS, AT THE GATES, AND BELGIUM'S EDGE-METAL LEGENDS, ARKANGEL, CLIMATE OF FEAR HAVE CRAFTED THEIR OWN UNIQUE BRAND OF WHAT COULD BE BEST DESCRIBED IN MY VIEW AS "MELODIC DEATH-METAL INSPIRED HARDCORE" (SUPER WORDY I KNOW) AND THEY DO IT REALLY FUCKING WELL.

FOR ME THE STAND OUT SONGS, BAR THE INTRO WHICH REALLY IS HARD AS FUCKING NAILS, ARE MANUFACTURED DISCONTENT WHICH HAS ONE OF THE BEST OPENINGS I'VE EVER HEARD ON A UKHC RELEASE. THE OTHER ONE BEING NO MORE DREAMS WHICH FEATURES THE GUEST VOCAL OFFERINGS OF ANDY BAZ OF RAIDEN.

TO SUMMARISE, IF YOU WANT PUNISHINGLY EVIL, FANTASTICALLY CRAFTED MELODIC DEATH-METAL FUSED WITH SOME OF THE MOST UNFORGIVINGLY VICIOUS AND AGGRESSIVE HARDCORE, THEN THIS RECORD IS FOR YOU. DON'T SLEEP ON IT FOR A SECOND LONGER, GO AND PUT IT ON RIGHT NOW.

XREGRESSIONSX – THE SINS FROM WHICH WE ABSTAIN

NORTHERN METALCORE QUARTET XREGRESSIONSX ARE ALREADY ON COURSE TO CHANGE THE FACE OF THE UK STRAIGHTEDGE SCENE AND THEIR NEW RELEASE, 'THE SINS FROM WHICH WE ABSTAIN' JUST FURTHER CEMENTS THAT IN MY EYES.

THIS EP IS MADE UP OF SIX HARD-HITTING TRACKS, ONE OF WHICH BEING A RE-RECORDING OF 'A BRIEF MOMENT OF CLARITY' OFF THE BANDS DEMO FROM EARLY LAST YEAR. EVERYTHING ON THIS IS BRILLIANT, THE PLAYING, PRODUCTION AND ALL IN BETWEEN.

EVERY SONG IS RAW AND GRITTY, YET STILL TECHNICAL AS HELL. PURE UNADULTERATED METALCORE FROM START TO FINISH. THE RIFFS ARE HEAVY AND IGNORANT AT TIMES, SWITCHING TO MASTERFULLY TECHNICAL AT OTHERS. ADDING HARD HITTING STRAIGHTEDGE LYRICS INTO THAT MIX IS SOMETHING REALLY REFRESHING TO ME. I CAN HEAR INFLUENCES FROM EARLIER METALCORE POWERHOUSES SUCH AS DISEMBODIED AND ARKANGEL BUT ALSO FROM NEWER BANDS SUCH AS BIRMINGHAM'S OWN CAULDRON.

MY PERSONAL FAVOURITE TRACK IS 'THE TIES THAT BIND' I THINK IT ENCOMPASSES EVERYTHING ALREADY SAID. IT'S BRUTAL FROM START TO FINISH WITH NO BREAKS. AND THAT LAST MINUTE OR SO WILL JUST CAUSE PURE HAVOC IN EVEN THE SMALLEST OF VENUES. AS SOON AS THESE BOYS CAN PLAY AGAIN, THEY ARE GONNA TEAR THROUGH THE SCENE.

XREGRESSIONSX
THE SINS FROM WHICH WE ABSTAIN
NEW EP COMING SOON ON
THE COMING STRIFE RECORDS

FIRST DAY OUT - DEMO

REPRESENTING ATLANTA HARDCORE, COMPRISING OF MEMBERS OF STRANGLE YOU, LIVING IN FEAR AND SATISFIED. THIS WAS THE BAND'S FIRST RELEASE AND IT DOESN'T DISAPPOINT. BUT I CAN'T HELP FEEL LIKE THIS WENT SLIGHTLY UNDER THE RADAR, NOT FOR ANY OTHER REASON THAN THE STATE OF THE CURRENT WORLD.

A PERFECT BLEND BETWEEN OLD SCHOOL STYLE VOCALS AND HEAVY IGNORANT RIFFS MAKE FOR A TIMELESS SOUND. PERSONALLY I CAN HEAR INSPIRATION FROM BANDS LIKE ROTTING OUT AND SLAPSHOT AS WELL AS WARZONE AND SHEER TERROR. A SERIOUS MODERN TAKE ON THE CLASSIC HARDCORE BLUEPRINT.

IT'S FAST, SHORT (EXTREMELY SHORT AT ONLY 4 MINUTES) AND HARD HITTING. I BELIEVE THE BAND DID EVERYTHING THEMSELVES. RECORDED, MIXED AND MASTERED SO IT'S GOT THAT REAL DIY FEEL TO IT. BUT DON'T MISTAKE IT FOR NOT SOUNDING FULL AND PROFESSIONAL.

TOPPING THAT OFF WITH ARTWORK BY MULLY THIS DEMO REALLY DELIVERS! AND IT'S DEFINITELY EARNED A PLACE ON MY REGULAR LISTENS.

THE GUYS HAVE ALSO JUST RELEASED A SINGLE, 'TEN TOES DOWN', WHICH I ALSO RECOMMEND YOU LISTEN TOO!

WORDS BY ALEC DAVIES, JACK BEALE-BURCHELL, MASON HUSSAIN, ASH AUSTIN

BOLT THROWER

BOLT THROWER WAS FORMED IN 1986, AND ENJOYED A 30 YEAR RUN AS ONE OF THE MOST DISTINCTIVE-SOUNDING AND INFLUENTIAL BANDS IN DEATH METAL. PEOPLE WHO ARE INTO THIS BAND REALLY LOVE THEM, AND THAT TIES IN SO WELL WITH BOLT THROWER'S ROOTS IN PUNK AND HARDCORE. IT'S NO SECRET THAT I LOVE DEATH METAL, AND I HAVE BEEN SO EXCITED TO PUBLISH THIS INTERVIEW. I JUST WANTED TO SAY TO THE BAND, AND ESPECIALLY BAZ THOMSON - THANKS FOR TAKING THE TIME TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS, AND THANKS FOR ALL THE RIFFS.

HI BAZ, THANKS FOR DOING THIS WITH ME. HOW YOU DOING MATE?

I'M DOING FINE THANKS ALEC. IT'S CRAZY TIMES WE LIVE IN BUT JUST TRYING TO KEEP AS SAFE AS WE CAN WHILE TRYING TO LIVE AS NORMAL LIFE AS POSSIBLE.

CAN YOU TELL ME HOW BOLT THROWER STARTED? WHAT WAS THE INITIAL "SPARK"?

BOLT THROWER STARTED INITIALLY WITH MYSELF, GAVIN WARD AND ALAN WEST, THE ORIGINAL VOCALIST. I HAD BEEN IN A BAND WITH ALAN AND BOTH HAD A DESIRE TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT. I MET UP WITH GAV, WHO I HAD BEEN MATES WITH FOR A FEW YEARS, AT A GIG IN COVENTRY. WE CHATTED ABOUT WHAT ALAN AND I WANTED TO DO AND STRAIGHT AWAY HE SAID "COUNT ME IN!" IT WAS THAT QUICK. WE HAD MANY SESSIONS TOGETHER TRYING TO WRITE SONGS WITHOUT A DRUMMER, GETTING RIFFS, LYRICS AND STRUCTURES TOGETHER IN THE VARUKERS HOUSE IN GEORGE STREET, LEAMINGTON SPA. AT THIS POINT IN TIME JO WAS GAVIN'S GIRLFRIEND AND WAS PRESENT AT ALL OF THESE SESSIONS AND DISCUSSIONS, PLANS ETC, SO I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY IT WAS THEN THAT THE BANDS CORE WAS FORMED, I'D SAY THAT WAS THE INITIAL "SPARK". A LITTLE LATER WE MANAGED TO COME ACROSS ANDY WHALE THROUGH MUTUAL FRIENDS AND THE FIRST LINE UP WAS COMPLETE. WE ALL HAD DIFFERENT INFLUENCES WHICH KIND OF FUNNELLED TOGETHER TO PRODUCE WHAT BECAME THE BASIS FOR OUR SOUND.

WERE YOU ENCOURAGED OR INFLUENCED BY ANY OTHER LOCAL BANDS? I GUESS NAPALM DEATH IS THE BIG ONE, BUT WHO ELSE WAS PART OF THE SCENE AT THE TIME?

WELL FOR ME, THE BIGGEST "LOCAL" INFLUENCE WAS SACRILEGE. THEY HAD AMAZING RIFFS, THE ONES YOU JUST GO ...."#£&£@#" TO. IT'S AT THIS POINT WHILE WRITING THIS THAT I REALISE THERE IS NO WORD TO DESCRIBE THAT FEELING WHEN YOU HEAR AN AMAZING RIFF FOR THE FIRST TIME.

CAN YOU GIVE US SOME EARLY HISTORY? WHAT WERE THE FIRST SHOWS LIKE? DID YOU IMMEDIATELY WRITE SONGS THAT WE ALL KNOW, OR WERE THERE SOME QUESTIONABLE FIRST DEMOS?

EARLY GIGS WERE AS YOU WOULD EXPECT FOR A NEW BAND, IT WAS NO DIFFERENT FOR BOLT THROWER. NOBODY KNOWS YOUR SONGS, NOBODY HAS EVEN HEARD OF YOU, YOU ARE STILL FINDING YOUR FEET AND YOUR OWN SOUND. WE WOULD TAKE ANY GIGS WE COULD GET, HIRING A VAN, EVERYONE IN THE BACK WITH THE GEAR. GAV WAS MY WINGMAN BACK THEN, I'D FALL ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL DRIVING BACK SO HE WOULD CHAT ALL THE WAY HOME TO ENSURE I DIDN'T NOD OFF WHILE DROPPING EVERYONE ONE OFF. GIGS WERE SMALL, BUT THE SCENE WAS VERY TIGHT AND SUPPORTIVE SO THERE WAS A LOT OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR BANDS JUST STARTING OUT. ONE THING I REMEMBER FROM THE OLD GIGS WAS THIS CHEAP TREM THAT I HAD ON MY GUITAR, IT WOULD JUST SNAP MY STRINGS IF YOU USED IT ....NOT GOOD WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE A SPARE GUITAR!

AS FOR THE SONGS, I DONT THINK THERE WERE ANY WE WROTE THAT DIDN'T GET RECORDED IN THOSE EARLY DAYS. THE FIRST DEMO WAS DONE ON A NIGHT SHIFT AT RICH BITCH STUDIOS WITH GAV ON BASS GUITAR, ALAN WEST ON VOCALS, ANDY WHALE ON DRUMS AND ME ON GUITAR. AT THE TIME OF GOING INTO RECORD THE SECOND DEMO WE WERE A FIVE PIECE BUT IT WAS ACTUALLY THE SAME LINE UP THAT RECORDED THE SECOND DEMO AS THE FIRST, WITH GAV ON 2ND GUITAR AND BASS. THE BASSIST AT THE TIME DIDN'T TURN UP FOR THE RECORDING SO HE WAS OUT AND JO WAS BROUGHT IN. SHE KNEW THE SONGS, BEEN THERE WHEN THEY HAD BEEN WRITTEN AND HAD BEEN PRESENT AT THE RECORDING OF BOTH DEMOS, SO WAS THE PERFECT FIT.

I'VE ONLY BEEN A PART OF LIVE MUSIC IN THE INTERNET AGE, WHERE PEOPLE ARE EASY TO CONTACT AND VENUES ARE EASY TO BOOK. WHAT WAS THE SCENE LIKE IN THE 80'S, WAS IT EASY TO GET ON SHOWS? WERE THERE LOCAL SHOWCASES, OR DID YOU HAVE TO WAIT FOR BIG BANDS TO ROLL THROUGH TOWN?

IN THE EARLY DAYS GIGS WERE PUT ON BY YOURSELF OR FRIENDS IN THE SCENE AND FANZINES OR PUBLICATIONS LIKE SOUNDS WERE WHERE YOU GOT YOUR INFORMATION FROM FOR GIGS. THERE WERE NO MOBILE PHONES, NO TEXTS, IN FACT HARDLY ANYONE I KNEW HAD A HOME PHONE UNLESS THEY LIVED WITH THEIR PARENTS. EVEN AS WE WENT INTO THE EARLY NINETIES WE WERE STILL USING FAX MACHINES FOR TOUR ORGANISING ETC. IT'S PROBABLY NOT CHANGED TOO MUCH IN TERMS OF GIG AVAILABILITY, JUST THE WAY THEY ARE ORGANISED. IT'S BEEN REALLY GOOD TO WITNESS THE LOCAL SCENES WHILE WATCHING MY SON LUKE PLAY OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, SEEMS LIKE THE ENTHUSIASM IS THE SAME BUT IT'S JUST DONE DIFFERENTLY. I SUPPOSE YOU GUYS OF THE DIGITAL ERA HAVE PROBLEMS ALL OF YOUR OWN WHICH WE DIDN'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH BACK THEN SO I SUPPOSE THAT'S JUST THE WORLD MOVING FORWARD. BACK IN THE MID EIGHTIES ALL DAYERS COULD PROBABLY BE CONSIDERED "SHOWCASES" I SUPPOSE TO PUT A MODERN TERM TO IT AND WE DID A FAIR FEW OF THOSE.

"IN BATTLE THERE IS NO LAW" CAME OUT ON VINYL SOLUTIONS, RIGHT? HOW DID THAT RELATIONSHIP COME ABOUT?

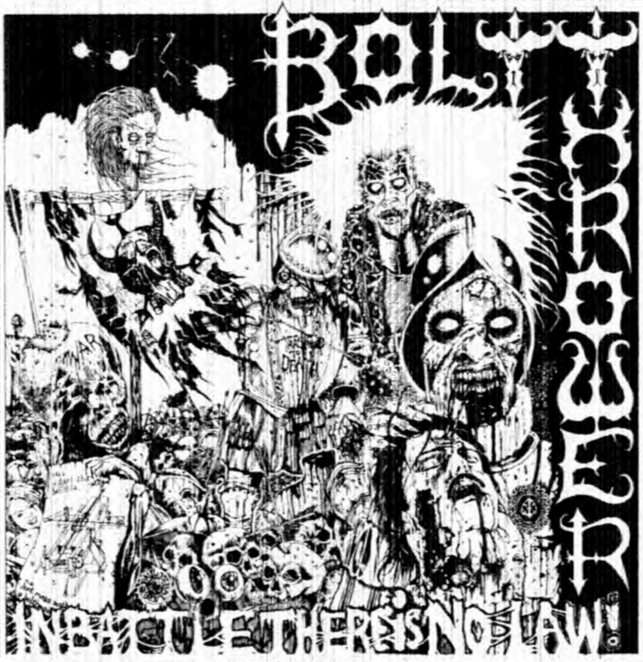
WOW, THAT'S A LONG OLD STORY BUT TO GIVE A BRIEF OVERVIEW WE HAD A CALL FROM JOHN WALTERS WHO WAS THE PRODUCER OF JOHN PEEL'S RADIO SHOW ON THE BBC. JOHN PEEL HAD HEARD THE SECOND DEMO AND ASKED US TO DO A SESSION FOR THE SHOW. WE WERE BLOWN AWAY, IT'S JOHN PEEL , THE GUY WE LISTENED TO SINCE KIDS AND HE'S ASKED US TO RECORD SOME SONGS FOR HIS SHOW! AS I SAY, IT WAS MIND BLOWING, ESPECIALLY AS WE WERE A DEMO BAND. THE FIVE OF US TRAVELLED TO LONDON, DID THE SESSION AND AFTER A FEW WEEKS IT WAS PLAYED ON THE RADIO. AFTER ITS FIRST AIRING, VINYL SOLUTIONS CONTACTED US AND ASKED US TO RECORD AN ALBUM WHICH WAS PRETTY MUCH GOING TO BE THE FIRST 2 DEMOS. ALAIN AND YVES WERE THE TWO GUYS WHO RAN THE LABEL, NICE BLOKES, THEY RAN THE RECORD LABEL OUT OF THEIR SHOP ON PORTABELLO ROAD, LONDON. ALAN WEST NEVER GOT TO RECORD THIS ALBUM, INSTEAD DECIDING TO LEAVE JUST BEFORE RECORDING STARTED. KARL, WHO WAS THEN OUR DRIVER - SO WELL KNOWN TO US, STEPPED IN AND RECORDED THE SONGS AT SHORT NOTICE.

FOLLOWING THAT, YOU SIGNED TO EARACHE, WHICH SEEMS THE POINT AT WHICH IT REALLY STARTED KICKING OFF FOR BOLT THROWER. AGAIN, CAN YOU TELL US HOW THEY INITIALLY GOT INVOLVED?

WE USED TO SEE DIG AT GIGS AROUND THE COUNTRY, HE SEEMED VERY KEEN TO SIGN THE BAND FOR EARACHE AND WE DIDN'T THINK THAT VINYL SOLUTION WAS THE LONG TERM HOME FOR THE BAND. EARACHE HAD AT THE TIME A REAL DIY FEEL TO IT, WHICH REALLY FITTED IN WITH WHAT BOLT THROWER WAS ABOUT. SADLY, IT WASN'T TO BE ALL WE HAD HOPED IT WOULD BE, OR COULD HAVE BEEN AT EARACHE, AT THE TIME THERE WERE OTHER INTERESTED LABELS WITH THE MOST INTRIGUING ONE BEING GAMES WORKSHOP. THAT CAME PRETTY CLOSE TO HAPPENING AND IT WAS NICE THAT WE WERE STILL ABLE TO GET THEM INVOLVED WITH THE FIRST RELEASE ON EARACHE "REALM OF CHAOS".

YOU INITIALLY HAD MORE OF A HARDCORE/GRINDCORE SOUND, AT WHAT POINT DO YOU THINK THAT CHANGED INTO THE CLASSIC BOLT THROWER DEATH METAL SOUND?

I HAVE NO IDEA ALEC, WE JUST EVOLVED. WE CAME FROM A HARDCORE PUNK/ CRUSTY BACKGROUND AND THAT'S ALWAYS BEEN THERE, BUT JUST TWEAKED OVER THE YEARS. NEVER MASSIVE CHANGES FROM ALBUM TO ALBUM. SOME SAY WE NEVER CHANGED AT ALL, MAYBE THEY ARE RIGHT. WHAT I ALWAYS SAID WAS THAT IF YOU DIDNT LIKE THE LAST ALBUM YOU HEARD OF BOLT THROWER, THEN DON'T BOTHER LISTENING TO THE NEXT, COS YOU WON'T LIKE IT.


BOLT THROWER
IN BATTLE THERE IS NO LAW!

DID YOU USUALLY WRITE AS A GROUP, OR WAS THERE A PRIMARY SONGWRITER? WHAT WAS THE PROCESS WHEN WRITING AND RECORDING, FOR EXAMPLE, "WAR MASTER"?

BLOODY HELL , THAT'S GOING BACK SOME YEARS MATE! WE USED TO REHEARSE IN BIRMINGHAM, AT RICH BITCH STUDIOS. A GREAT PLACE NOT JUST TO REHEARSE BUT TO BE AROUND. I USED TO PICK UP GAV AND JO IN MY OLD MORRIS MARINA AND HEAD OF FOR BRUM, CHECKING OUT THE LAST WEEKS REHEARSAL ON THE CRAPPY CAR CASSETTE/RADIO ON THE WAY OVER, DISCUSSING PARTS AND RIFFS ETC. GET TO REHEARSAL AND JUST BASH AT IT FOR 3 HOURS TRYING FIND THE ELUSIVE RIFF, SECTION, START OR WHATEVER WE WERE AFTER. IT WAS HALF SPONTANEOUS AND HALF WORKED ON AT HOME. I KNOW SOME OF THE SESSIONS WERE FRUITLESS AND WE PROBABLY BORED PEOPLE TO DEATH JUST RIFFING AWAY BUT THAT'S HOW IT WAS DONE BACK THEN. SONGS RECORDED ON A PORTABLE STEREO RADIO WITH A DOUBLE TAPE PLAYER (REMEMBER THEM?) SO WE COULD COPY THE SONGS FROM TAPE TO TAPE AND REHEARSE AT HOME.

THE FINAL, DEFINITIVE BOLT THROWER LINEUP - KARL WILLETTS, MARTIN "KIDDIE" KEARNS, JO BENCH, GAV WARD, BAZ THOMSON

WHAT'S THE STORY WITH THE WARHAMMER IMAGERY, WERE YOU GUYS PLAYING TABLETOP GAMES AND STUFF LIKE THAT, OR DID YOU JUST ADMIRE THE ILLUSTRATIONS?

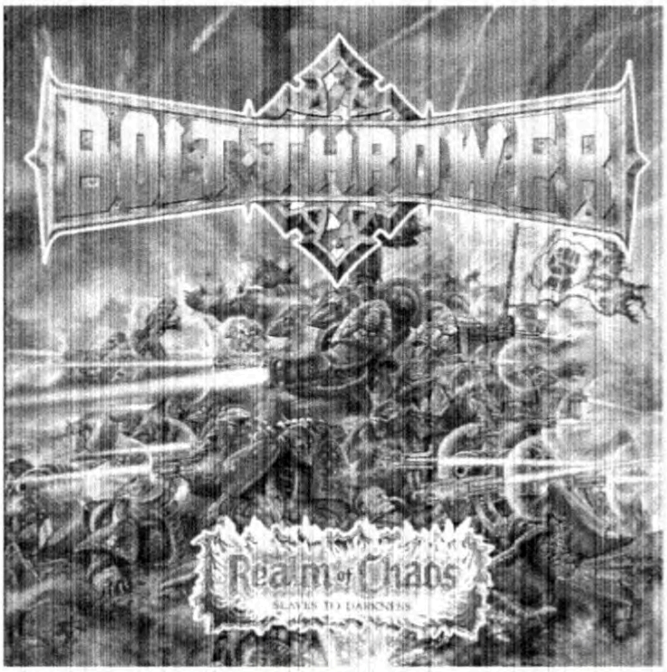
SOME OF THE BAND WERE HEAVILY INTO WARHAMMER. ME PERSONALLY I WAS NOT A GAME PLAYER BUT JUST LOVED THE ARTWORK AND CHARACTER/WEAPON NAMES..... JUST BRILLIANT! GAV ON THE OTHER HAND WAS KEEN ON THE PAINTING, COLLECTING THE FIGURES, AND PLAYING - JO EVEN CALLED THE PET CAT HORUS! KARL AND WHALE WERE GAMERS TOO.

DID YOU ALWAYS HAVE THAT GOAL OF "BIG LABEL, INTERNATIONAL TOURS", OR DID THAT KIND OF HAPPEN ON ITS OWN?

WE ABSOLUTELY NEVER HAD THAT PLAN, DEFINITELY NOT AND I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT BOLT THROWER BECAME. WE JUST WENT WITH WHAT WE FELT WE SHOULD DO AT ANY PARTICULAR TIME. WE HAD A WAY OF WORKING THAT WAS PROBABLY UNIQUE, AND THAT WAS HOW WE WERE. THAT WAY OF WORKING TOOK US TO WHERE WE ENDED UP, WITH THE PEOPLE WE WANTED TO WORK WITH LIKE MICHAEL TRENGERT AT METAL BLADE AND REGULAR VENUES WE PLAYED AT OVER THE DECADES, LIKE THE ATAK CLUB ENSCHEDE. LOYALTY IS SOMETHING WE HAVE ALWAYS ADMIRED AND APPRECIATED AND THIS WORKED BOTH WAYS. I'D LIKE TO THINK IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH BOLT THROWER AND IT'S LEGACY.

DO YOU HAVE ANY CRAZY TOUR OR STUDIO STORIES?

NO, WHAT GOES ON TOUR STAYS ON TOUR! ... NO BUT SERIOUSLY WE WERE REALLY BORING AND MORE INTO GETTING A MAGNUM ICE CREAM AFTER THE SHOWS THAN ANY PARTYING.



DO YOU HAVE A PERSONAL FAVOURITE RECORD FROM THE BOLT THROWER BACK CATALOGUE?

THERE'S A COUPLE ...THE ALBUM "..FOR VICTORY" ON THE VERY FIRST ORIGINAL VINYL RELEASE HAS TO GO DOWN AS A FAVOURITE. THE FIRST RELEASE HAD A PURE ANALOGUE SOUND DONE AT SAWMILLS STUDIO, IT WAS ANALOGUE TAPE MULTITRACK RECORDING STRAIGHT TO 1/2" TAPE MIX AND FROM THERE STRAIGHT TO THE CUT ACETATE FOR VINYL PRINTING. THE SOUND WAS AMAZING. I AM NO AUDIOPHILE BUT I LIKE WHAT I LIKE AND I DON'T CARE IF THE ANALOGUE PROCESS WAS ADDING ANY COLOUR TO THE SOUND OR NOT, IT JUST SOUNDED SO GOOD.

THE OTHER WOULD BE "THOSE ONCE LOYAL", AS I THINK IT'S THE DEFINITIVE BOLT THROWER ALBUM. IT WAS THE LAST RELEASED RECORDING OF MARTIN "KIDDIE" KEARNS AND HE DID ONE HELL OF A JOB ON THAT ALBUM. TIGHT AS HELL, YET A REAL GROOVE TO THE DRUMMING THAT CAN OFTEN BE MISSING IN SOME EXTREME MUSIC. THAT'S MY PERSONAL VIEW AND EVERYONE ELSE INCLUDING YOUR READERS WILL HAVE THEIR OWN FAVOURITE I'M SURE - OR NOT OF COURSE, IF THEY THINK WE ARE GARBAGE!

A HUGE AMOUNT OF PEOPLE IN DEATH METAL AND HARDCORE ASPIRE TO WRITE RIFFS HALF AS GOOD AS YOURS AND GAVIN'S. I'VE MET PEOPLE THAT HAVE GOT INTO DEATH METAL THROUGH PLAYING WARHAMMER AND THE ARTWORKCONNECTION - IT SEEMS LIKE YOUR LEGACY SPANS A PRETTY DIVERSE GROUP OF SUBCULTURES AND SCENES. DID YOU EVER EXPECT THAT?
NO. IF ANYONE FEELS THAT WE HAVE BROUGHT DIFFERENT CULTURES OR SCENES TOGETHER, GOT PEOPLE TO LISTEN TO DIFFERENT MUSIC OR JUST DOING SOMETHING DIFFERENT AND MEETING NEW PEOPLE THAT THEY WOULDN'T HAVE MET THEN I'D BE BLOWN AWAY WITH THAT TO BE HONEST. I HOPE THAT'S THE CASE.

DO YOU SEE A LINK BETWEEN BOLT THROWER'S PUNK INFLUENCE AND THE INFLUENCE BOLT THROWER HAS HAD ON MODERN PUNK AND HARDCORE BANDS?
I SUPPOSE I WOULD HAVE TO SAY YES TO THE THEORY OF THAT. WE WERE AS YOU SAY INFLUENCED BY OUR PUNK ROOTS, WHAT WE LISTENED TO AS KIDS AND I WOULD SAY THAT IN SOME CASES THAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO THE NEW MODERN BANDS. IF ANY BANDS HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY BOLT THROWER THEN I'LL TAKE THAT ANY DAY OF THE WEEK.

THERE ARE KIDS ALL OVER THE WORLD PAYING RIDICULOUS AMOUNTS OF MONEY FOR ORIGINAL BOLT THROWER SHIRTS, HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL? AND HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT PEOPLE STILL TO THIS DAY BOOTLEGGING BOLT THROWER SHIRTS?
IDEALLY THAT WOULDN'T BE THE CASE, NOBODY SHOULD BE PAYING OVER THE ODDS FOR AN OLD PIECE OF COTTON. I WISH WE COULD ENSURE EVERYONE WHO WANTED A SHIRT COULD GET ONE. HOWEVER, WE ALWAYS LIKED THE FACT THAT YOU BOUGHT THE SHIRT AT THE GIG. SADLY WE ARE NOT ABLE TO DO THAT NOW AND UNDERSTAND THAT THERE WILL ALWAYS BE BOOTLEGGERS TRYING TO MAKE A QUICK QUID OR TWO.

AS A GUITAR NERD, CAN I ASK ABOUT EQUIPMENT? WHAT'S YOUR GO-TO GUITAR/AMP/PEDAL SETUP?
OLD NINETIES GEAR, BOSS GX700, MARSHALL POWER AMP AND MARSHAL 4X12 CABS....WITH A NINETIES PLANK OF A GUITAR, BC RICH WARLOCK........OLD SCHOOL.

BOLT THROWER IS NOW INACTIVE, BUT DO YOU STILL PLAY OR WRITE ANYTHING AT ALL? ARE YOU INVOLVED OR INTERESTED IN ANY KIND OF HEAVY MUSIC AT THIS STAGE?
YES, WE ARE STILL HERE BUT AS YOU SAY, INACTIVE. MYSELF, GAV AND JO ARE STILL INTERESTED IN ALL THINGS BOLT THROWER AND STILL HAVE GET TOGETHERS AND PLAY THE ODD RIFF OR THREE JUST FOR FUN .....AND LONG MAY THAT CONTINUE.

THANKS SO MUCH FOR TAKING THE TIME TO DO THIS! IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SHOUT OUT OR SAY AT ALL?
NO PROBLEMS ALEC....AND GOOD LUCK TO EVERYONE PLAYING IN HEAVY BANDS, WHATEVER SUB- GENRE THAT MAY BE. SUPPORT EACH OTHER - STAY LOYAL.

BOLT THROWER

PHOTOS BY SARAH BENNETT, PAUL HARRIES, CECIL

ONE
SCENE
FANZINE

Issue One coming soon....

Featuring interviews with members of;

- Gridiron
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- Intent 2 Kill

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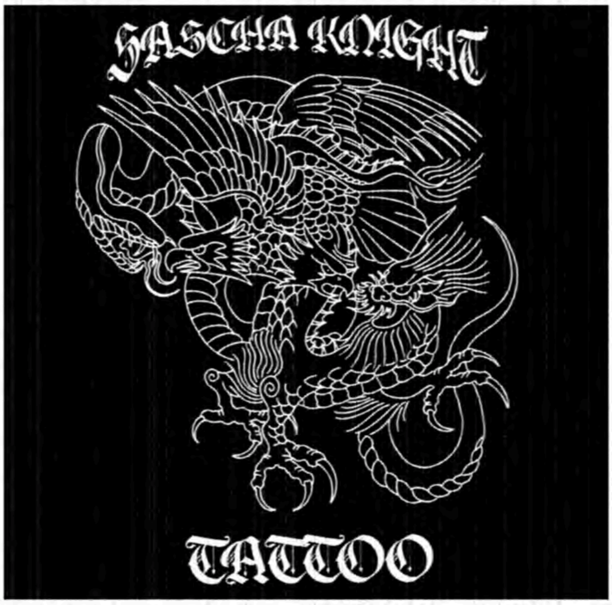
Don't Forget The Struggle, Don't Forget The Streets

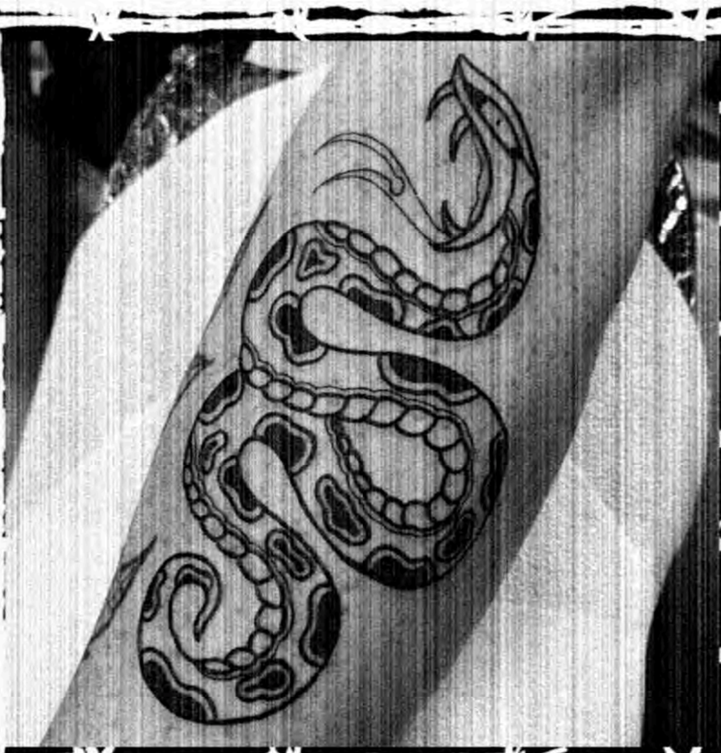
One Scene XXX



SASCHA KNIGHT CREATES BOLD AS FUCK TATTOOS AT MIND YOUR HEAD TATTOOS IN BIRMINGHAM'S JEWELLERY QUARTER. SASCHA'S BEEN PART OF THE HARDCORE SCENE FOR YEARS, SO IT MADE A LOT OF SENSE TO FIT HER IN THE ZINE FOR AN ARTICLE - CHECK OUT HER WORK IF YOU'RE INTO DARK AND TRADITIONAL TATTOOING AND ILLUSTRATION.

HIYA MATE, HOW YOU DOIN?

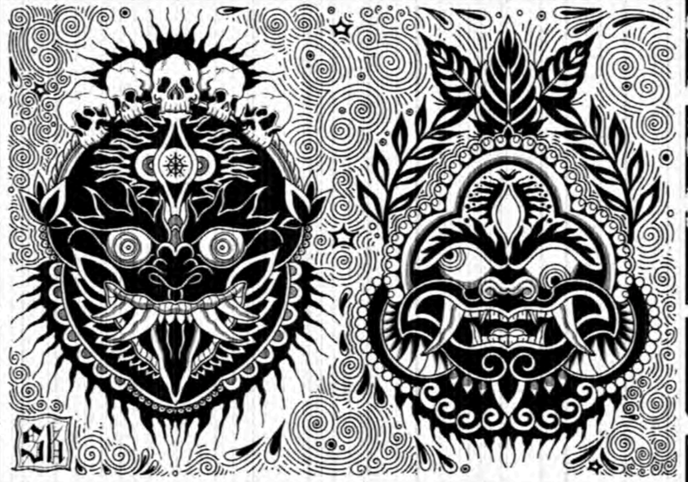
HEY! I'M DOING GOOD LATELY, IT'S ALL QUITE UP AND DOWN AND I'M QUITE OPEN WITH HOW IT'S ALL BEEN. CURRENTLY NOT BEING ALLOWED TO WORK AND THAT SUCKS BUT I'M FINALLY DOING THINGS WITH ALL THE TIME INSTEAD OF WALLOWING AWAY. EVERYONE'S HANDLING SHIT DIFFERENTLY AND THAT'S COOL.



CAN WE GO FROM THE START - WHEN DID YOU START TATTOOING? WHERE DID YOU DO YOUR APPRENTICESHIP AND HOW WAS THAT? CAN YOU TELL US WHAT SORT OF STUFF TO EXPECT DURING A TATTOO APPRENTICESHIP?

I STARTED MY APPRENTICESHIP IN 2015 AT A QUAINT STUDIO CALLED HORROR INK IN SHIFNAL, NEAR TELFORD AND WENT FULL TIME ABOUT 10 MONTHS LATER. I WORKED FULL TIME AT A PUB ALONGSIDE THE APPRENTICESHIP UNTIL I STARTED CHARGING FOR TATTOOS AND PUT ALL MY FREE TIME AND FOCUS INTO DRAWING (WHEN I WASN'T DREAMING ABOUT POURING PINTS- FOR REAL, I WOULD TALK TO CUSTOMERS IN MY SLEEP). I REALLY ENJOYED IT, THE PEOPLE I WORKED WITH WERE GREAT AND EVERY DAY WAS A LAUGH. IT'S SOMETHING I'D WANTED TO DO FOR YEARS BUT DIDN'T THINK I HAD THE BACKBONE OR CONFIDENCE. I WAS SUCH A NERVOUS KID THAT COULDN'T TALK IN A GROUP OF PEOPLE. TATTOOING ACTUALLY HELPED ME OVERCOME THAT, THOUGH I'M STILL A PRETTY AWKWARD PERSON.

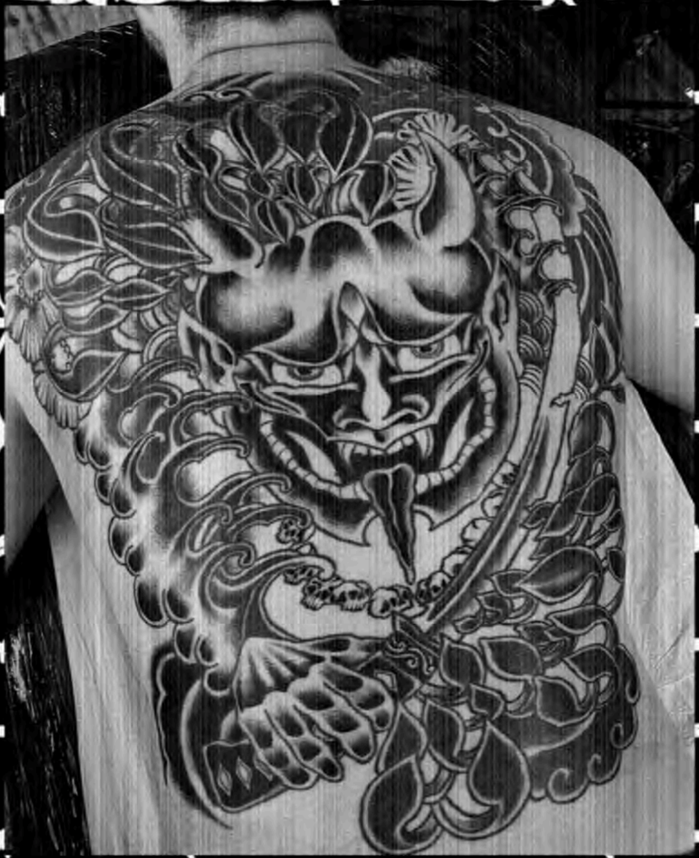
THERE ISN'T A BIG 'HOW TO' BOOK WHEN IT COMES TO APPRENTICESHIPS BECAUSE EVERYWHERE IS A BIT DIFFERENT BUT EXPECT TO WORK HARD. YOU'RE EXCHANGING YEARS OF KNOWLEDGE AND GUIDANCE FOR HELPING AROUND THE SHOP, PAYING YOUR DUES. I KNOW PEOPLE WHO HAVE TAUGHT THEMSELVES (PROPERLY) AND PEOPLE WHO HAD APPRENTICESHIPS THAT LASTED 4 YEARS, EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT. I'M SO AWARE OF THE FACT I HAD QUITE AN EASY APPRENTICESHIP, BUT THEY VARY! DON'T EVER FALL FOR THOSE TATTOO ACADEMY SCAMS. IT BECOMES A BIG PART OF YOUR LIFE VERY QUICKLY SO MOTIVATION, DRIVE AND TIME MANAGEMENT AND OBVIOUSLY LOVE DRAWING/PAINTING ARE IMPORTANT. DRAWING EVERY DAY IS PRETTY VITAL.



WHAT WERE SOME OF THE FIRST TATTOOS YOU DID? HOW DID IT FEEL TATTOOING ANOTHER PERSON FOR THE FIRST TIME?

THE FIRST EVER ONE I DID WAS ON MYSELF, A BRIGHT PINK MELTING ICE POP AND ON OTHER PEOPLE, THE FIRST 3 I DID WAS A BRIGHT COLOURFUL BEE ON A OMBRÉ HONEYCOMB BACKGROUND, A HARRY POTTER POTION BOTTLE ON MY SISTER AND A BLUE ROSE.

TATTOOING ANOTHER PERSON FOR THE FIRST TIME WAS FUCKING TERRIFYING HAHAHA LUCKILY I HAVE SOME INCREDIBLY TRUSTING FRIENDS SOME OF WHICH STILL GET TATTOOED BY ME NOW AND THAT HELPED EASE THE NERVES A LOT. MY MENTOR DIDN'T CONSTANTLY STAND OVER MY SHOULDER BUT WAS THERE WHEN I NEEDED ADVICE, CRITICISM OR TIPS. THE ONLY THING THAT GETS ME ON EDGE NOW IS TATTOOING ANOTHER ARTIST.



YOUR STYLE IS KINDA DARK TRADITIONAL, DO YOU THINK THAT'S A FAIR DESCRIPTION? WHAT'S SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE STUFF TO DRAW AND TATTOO?

I'D SAY THATS BANG ON YEAH! I LOVE DRAWING DEMONS, MEDIEVAL INSPIRED PIECES, WEAPONS, CARTOONS WITH TRADITIONAL MOTIFS, AND ANIMALS/CREATURES BUT GENERALLY SPEAKING THE DARKER THE BETTER! I'M FASCINATED BY PSYCHEDELICS AND TRY TO INCORPORATE THAT TWISTED CONSCIOUSNESS/REALITY INTO MY WORK.

I HAD A BUNCH OF BOOKS AS A TEENAGER BASED AROUND NECROMANCY AND MAGICK (DOESN'T EVERYONE?) AND WOULD USE THE WORDS FROM THOSE BOOKS TO INSPIRE DRAWINGS LEADING TO THE RECURRING DARK IMAGERY.

MY GRANDMA WOULD ONLY EVER DRAW AND PAINT PEOPLE OF ANCIENT CULTURES, TRIBAL WOMEN WITH FACE TATTOOS AND INCREDIBLE MIDDLE EASTERN ARCHITECTURE AND A LOT OF HER PAINTINGS INSPIRED MY WORK NOW AND THE WHOLE REASON I GOT INTO ART LET ALONE TATTOOING.

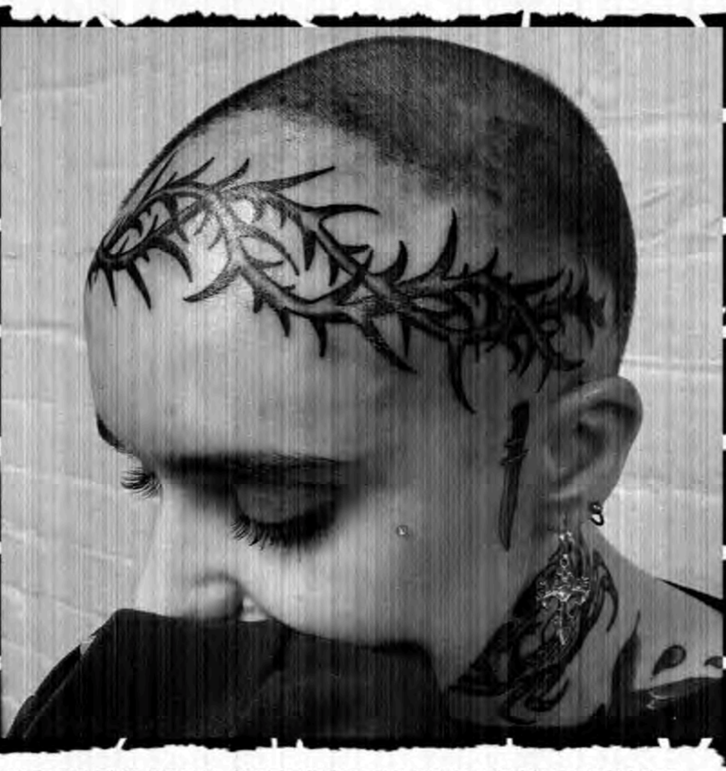
DO YOU EVER TATTOO COLOUR, OR IS IT JUST NOT SOMETHING YOU'RE INTO?

I ACTUALLY STARTED OUT WANTING TO BE A COLOUR ARTIST! EVERYTHING I DREW WAS BRIGHT AND VIVID; I USED PRO-MARKERS, AND POSCA PENS A LOT WITH EARLIER DESIGNS. I'VE STARTED USING SPLASHES OF COLOUR IN MY WORK RECENTLY AND DO WANT TO BRANCH OUT AND TRY NEW THINGS SO YOU MIGHT SEE A LOT MORE COLOUR IN MY WORK SOON, YOU MIGHT NOT. I ALWAYS CRAWL BACK TO BLACKWORK.

I CAN ALWAYS TELL A SASCHA TATTOO WHEN I SEE ONE - YOUR STUFF ALWAYS STAYS SO DARK AND HEALS GREAT. DO YOU REMEMBER A PIVOTAL MOMENT WHERE YOU FOUND YOUR OWN STYLE?

THANK YOU! I'M ALWAYS SO BUZZING TO SEE A HEALED PIECE OUT IN THE WILD AND COMMENTS LIKE THAT GET ME SO GASSED. I DON'T THINK I'VE FOUND MY OWN CONSISTENT STYLE YET. IT'S EVER CHANGING AND EVOLVING INTO SOMETHING NEW. I DO THINK I'VE TRIED TOO HARD TO FORCE A STYLE RATHER THAN LET IT FLOW AUTHENTICALLY IN THE PAST AND THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS I'M YET TO TRY! HOWEVER, I GUESS THAT PIVOTAL MOMENTS WAS WHEN PEOPLE STARTED TO RECOGNISE PIECES AS ONE OF MINE, OR WHEN SOMEONE TRAVELS REALLY FAR, THAT ALWAYS SHOCKS ME BUT IT'S A COOL FEELING AND I'M SO GRATEFUL PEOPLE LIKE WHAT I DO. I'M SO INSPIRED BY ARTISTS LIKE WILL GEARY, SIMON ERL, GAKKINX, EMILS SALMINS.

> ***"TATTOOING ANOTHER PERSON FOR THE FIRST TIME WAS FUCKING TERRIFYING"***



OBVIOUSLY TATTOO ARTISTS HAVE BEEN HIT HARD THIS YEAR DUE TO THE SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES. HAVE YOU MANAGED TO STAY CREATIVE DURING THE FORCED DOWNTIME? WHAT DO YOU THINK THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR TATTOO ARTISTS?

IT'S SUCKED, FOR THE MOST PART. I HAVEN'T BEEN AS CREATIVE AS I COULD HAVE BEEN FOR SURE! THIS TIME ROUND I'VE SPENT A LOT OF TIME EATING, SLEEPING AND AVOIDING NEWS. I'M TRYING TO RESTRICT HOW MUCH I USE MY PHONE AND SOCIAL MEDIA, IT'S ALL SO JARRING, BUT I'M QUITE CONFLICTED AS I USE IT SO MUCH FOR WORK AND THE ALGORITHMS OF OUR BELOVED INSTAGRAM FUCKING SUCK, SO I HAVE TO STAY SOMEWHAT ACTIVE AND INTERACT TO KEEP A PLATFORM. WHAT IS AMAZING, AND KEEPS ME GOING IS HOW EVERYONE IS ADAPTING AND DELVING INTO NEW CREATIVE MEDIUMS TO GET BY WHILST SUPPORTING EACH OTHER IN A WAY I HAVEN'T SEEN BEFORE. CREATIVITY IS A DRIVING FORCE THROUGH STRUGGLE AND IT MAKES PEOPLE FEEL GOOD..

I SAW THIS VIDEO THE OTHER WEEK OF A ROBOT DOING A TATTOO, I DON'T THINK AI BELONGS IN TATTOOING WHICH SEEMS TO BE THE WAY THE REST OF THE WORLD IS HEADED. TATTOO'S MAKE PEOPLE FEEL GOOD, THEY'RE AN ACT OF REBELLION, THEY TELL STORIES, AND THOSE INTIMATE STORIES ARE SHARED WITH ARTISTS AND THERE'S JUST NO WAY THOSE MOMENTS CAN BE MATCHED. TATTOOING IS AS IMPORTANT TO A CLIENT AS IT IS TO AN ARTIST FOR SO MANY REASONS. I REALLY HOPE WE CAN OPEN UP AGAIN SOON, IT FEELS DAFT THAT I CAN GO TO SAY COSTA FOR A 'ESSENTIAL' CUP OF COFFEE I CAN MAKE AT HOME BUT CAN'T GRAB ONE FROM THAT INDEPENDENT COFFEE SHOP UP THE ROAD OR PAY MY BILLS WITHOUT BREAKING RULES, Y'KNOW? WE'LL BE BACK IN NO TIME AND I CAN'T WAIT TO WELCOME PEOPLE BACK.

CHECK SASCHA'S BIGCARTEL HERE

YOU'VE DONE STINTS WITH FORCE OF NEGLECT, DOWNWARD SPIRAL, AND MANTRA (AND MAYBE MORE THAT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT?). ARE YOU PLAYING ANY MUSIC RIGHT NOW?
I REALLY LOVED PLAYING WITH ALL THESE GUYS, GOT OVER A BUNCH OF CONFIDENCE ISSUES. WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN A LONG TIME WITH EVERYTHING GOING ON; AND EVERYONE'S DOING THEIR OWN THING. ALL I'M PLAYING RECENTLY IS SAD SONGS IN MY ROOM ON PIANO HAHAHA SO NO THERE'S NOT A FAT LOT ON FOR ME ON THE MUSIC FRONT AT THE MOMENT BUT I HOPE TO CHANGE THAT SOON! I'VE DRAWN A LOT OF INSPIRATION FROM 2020. THERE IS SOMETHING NEW IN THE WORKS BUT CAN'T SAY TOO MUCH ON THAT.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN LISTENING TO LATELY?
A BIT OF EVERYTHING, I'VE REKINDLED MY LOVE FOR SO MANY MUSICAL SOUNDTRACKS AND MOULIN ROUGE IS NOW MY TOP PLAYED. BEEN BUMPING LOTS OF DRAIN, IRONED OUT, MALIGNANT METHODS, ZAND, NASTY, END GAME AND YOTK. THEN THERE'S SOME OVERWHELMING NOSTALGIA RECENTLY WITH ALL THE OLD TOUR/SHOW POSTERS BEING SHARED THROUGH READY EYE COLLECTIVE SO I'VE BEEN ON A TIME HURDLE.

> ***"TATTOOING IS SOMETHING I'D WANTED TO DO FOR YEARS BUT DIDN'T THINK I HAD THE BACKBONE OR CONFIDENCE. I WAS SUCH A NERVOUS KID THAT COULDN'T TALK IN A GROUP OF PEOPLE. TATTOOING ACTUALLY HELPED ME OVERCOME THAT, THOUGH I'M STILL A PRETTY AWKWARD PERSON."***

DO YOU HAVE ANY MERCH OR PRINTS FOR SALE? WHERE CAN PEOPLE FIND THAT?
I RECENTLY PUT SOME PRINTS AND FINALLY A TSHIRT UP FOR SALE ON MY BIGCARTEL, AND THE CREATIVE BALL'S JUST STARTED ROLLING AGAIN
HTTP://SASCHAKNIGHTTATTOO.BIGCARTEL.COM

HOW CAN CLIENTS CONTACT YOU FOR APPOINTMENTS?
THOUGH I DO OFTEN RESPOND TO DM'S FOR ENQUIRIES, IT'S EASIER TO LOSE CONTACT AND RESPONSES GET JUMBLED AND SLOWED DOWN. SASCHAKNIGHTTATTOO@OUTLOOK.COM IS THE BEST WAY TO CONTACT ME!

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME MAN, ANY SHOUTOUTS AT ALL?
ANYTIME MATE! SHOUT OUT ALL MY MATES MAKING MOVES DESPITE WHAT BULLSHIT THIS YEAR IS THROWING AT THEM, I KNOW SO MANY RESILIENT, CREATIVE AND TALENTED PEOPLE IT'S HARD TO SINGLE ANY OUT

EMAIL SASCHA NOW TO BOOK A DOPE TATTOO WHEN LOCKDOWN ENDS

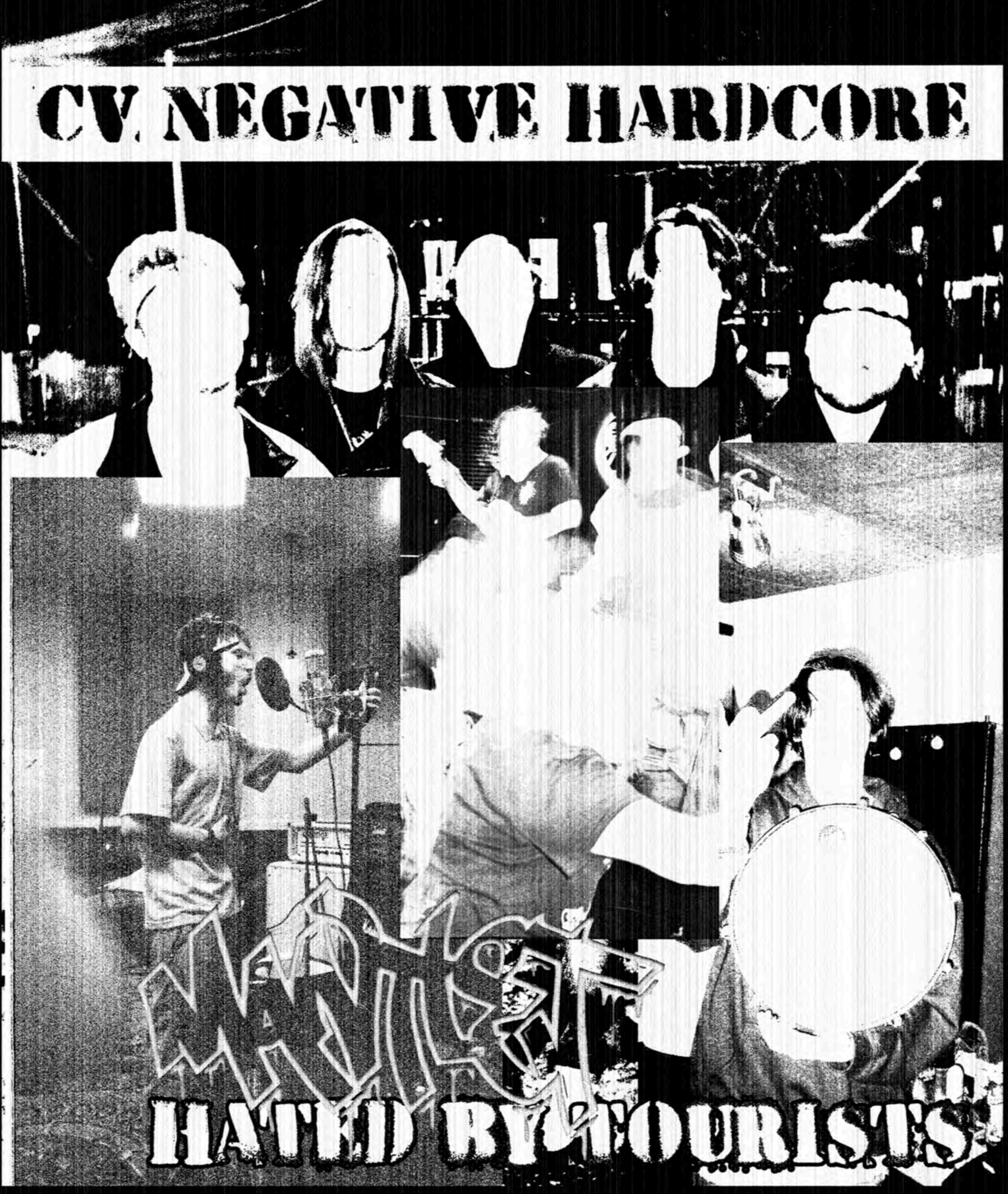
SASCHA KNIGHT
TATTOO

four years of grief

compilation 12"
coming soon

the coming strife records

MANTLET 10” COMING SOON


CV. NEGATIVE HARDCORE
MANTLET
HATED BY TOURISTS

NUCLEAR FAMILY RECORDS

STUCKOUT STICKER CO.

STUCK OUT STICKER CO. MAKE THE COOLEST STICKERS YOU'VE EVER SEEN - FACT. SKEL HAS BEEN IN THE SCENE FOR A MINUTE, DOING BITS WITH COLD HARD TRUTH & LIFE GRIND. HE CURRENTLY PLAYS IN LAST ORDERS HC, & MAKES THE SICKEST DESIGNS. IF YOU GOT ANY MENTALLY VEXED DIE CUT STICKERS, YOU KNOW HOW DOPE THEY ARE.

YO SKEL, HOW YOU DOING? COULD YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT YOU DO?

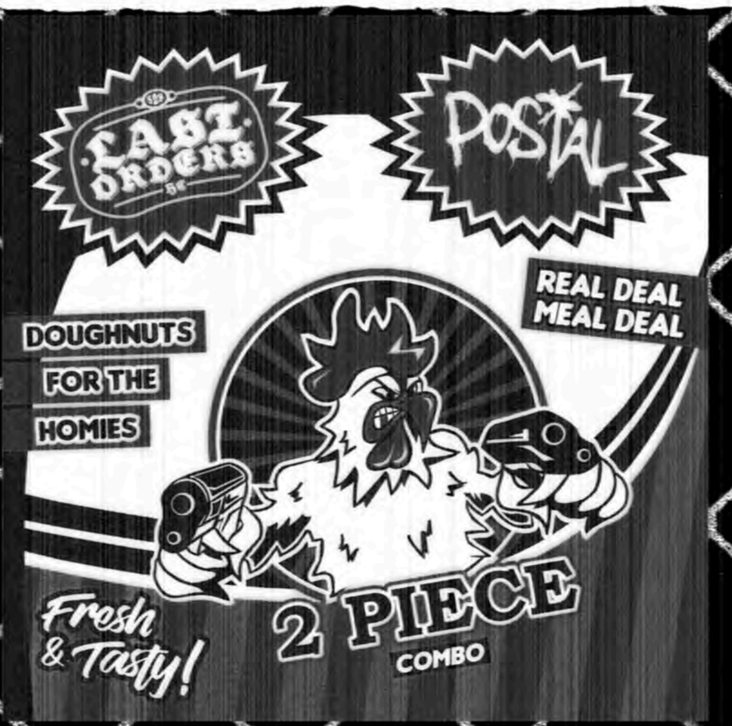
YO IM GOOD THANKS,CHEERS FOR ASKING ME TO DO THIS. YEA I RUN STUCK OUT STICKER CO. PRINTING STICKERS FOR BANDS, ARTISTS, PODCASTS AND ANYONE ELSE WHO NEEDS EM! I ALSO PLAY BASS IN LAST ORDERS HC.

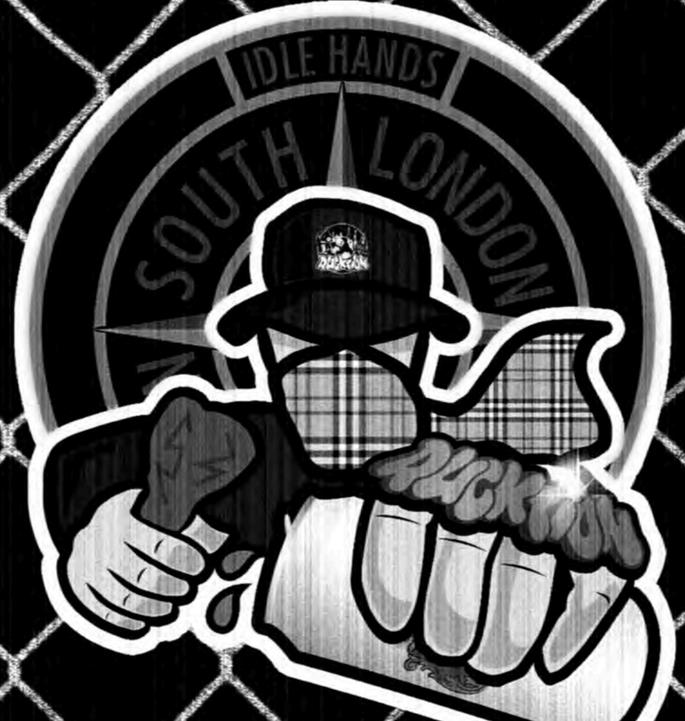
I DID A BIT OF RESEARCH AND TWIGGED THAT YOU USED TO WORK UNDER THE NAME "GORILLA PRESS". ANY REASON FOR THE CHANGE?

THERE'S BEEN A COUPLE OF OTHER COMPANIES POP UP CALLED GORILLA PRESS SO I DECIDED TO CHANGE NAME WHEN THE DOMAIN FOR THE WEBSITE RAN OUT (EARLIER THIS YEAR) AND START FRESH ..I COULDN'T DRAW LOGOS OF GORILLAS EITHER HAHA

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THIS STUFF? DID YOU HAVE ANY "FORMAL" EDUCATION IN ART, DESIGN ETC.?

STARTED DESIGNING GIG FLIERS AND BAND DEMO COVERS WHEN I FIRST GOT INTO HARDCORE, AND MIXED ALL THE STUFF I LOVED GROWING UP LIKE GRAFF AND SKATE LOGOS INTO THAT. FOR THE LAST 15 YEARS SINCE I'VE BEEN WORKING AS A PRINTER I'VE PICKED UP GRAPHIC DESIGN ON THE JOB AND NOW DO MOSTLY ALL MY WORK DIGITALLY.





CAN YOU TALK US THROUGH THE VARIOUS BITS THAT STUCK OUT OFFER? IE. TYPES OF STICKERS ETC.

FULL COLOUR VINYL STICKERS, HOLOGRAPHIC VINYL STICKERS, BUDGET PROMO PAPER STICKERS , WE'RE NOW SET UP FOR DOING BIODEGRADABLE LABELS WHICH ILL BE ADDING TO THE WEBSITE SOON. I ALSO PRINT AND SUPPLY BLANK EGGSHELL STICKERS WHICH SELL THROUGH THE GRAFFCITY WEBSITE (STILL UNDER THE GORILLA PRESS BRAND) BUT PRINT CUSTOM EGGSHELLS TOO.

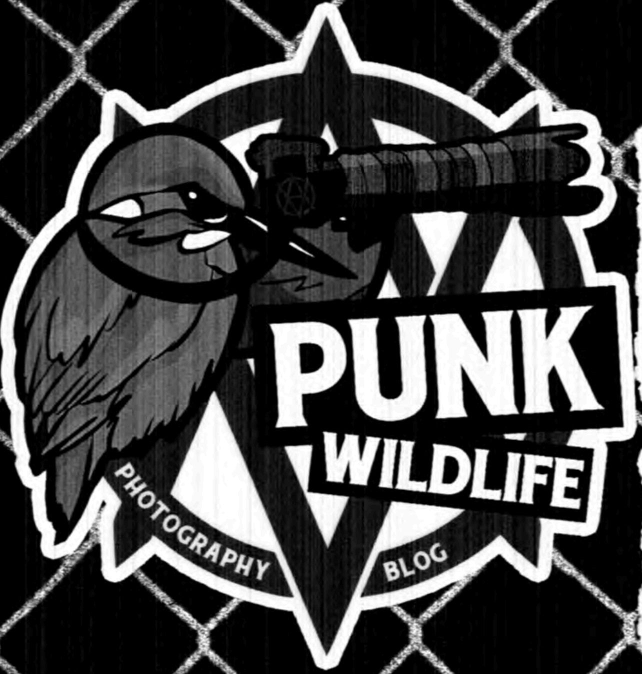
YOU'VE DONE SOME RAD STICKERS FOR US RECENTLY, COULD YOU GIVE EXAMPLES AND TALK THROUGH SOME OTHER COOL STUFF YOU'VE DONE?

ITS ALWAYS WICKED TO WORK WITH BANDS AND LABELS AND ARTISTS IM INTO AND GETTING TO SEE THE ARTWORK FRESH, ONE OF THE MADDEST JOBS I'VE DONE WAS FOR GREENPEACE THOUGH.. HUGE EGGSHELL STICKERS WHICH ARE A COMPLETE BASTARD TO REMOVE.. THE STICKERS MADE IT ONTO A LOAD OF BARCLAYS BANK WINDOWS AND DOORS AND ULTIMATELY THE NEWS.

AS WELL AS PRINTING AND PRODUCTION, YOU DESIGN STUFF TOO RIGHT? DO YOU FIND THAT MOST OF YOUR WORK THESE DAYS IS "DIGITAL", OR DO YOU STILL WRITE/DRAW/PAINT?

MOST MY WORK IS DIGITAL NOW, IT HAS BEEN FOR THE LAST 10/15 YEARS OR SO, I TRY TO DESIGN STUFF WHICH WILL REPRODUCE WELL IN PRINT AND VECTOR DESIGNS ARE THE BEST FOR THIS.

> ***"ONE OF THE MADDEST JOBS I'VE DONE WAS FOR GREENPEACE THOUGH.. HUGE EGGSHELL STICKERS WHICH ARE A COMPLETE BASTARD TO REMOVE.. THE STICKERS MADE IT ONTO A LOAD OF BARCLAYS BANK WINDOWS AND DOORS AND ULTIMATELY THE NEWS."***


PUNK
WILDLIFE
PHOTOGRAPHY
BLOG

IF A HARDCORE BAND WANTED TO GIVE YOU TOTAL FREE REIGN FOR A RECORD COVER, WHAT KINDA THING WOULD YOU WANNA DO?
I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO DESIGN THE POSTAL / LAST ORDERS HC SPLIT CD FOR RUCKTION LAST YEAR (PROBABLY BY DEFAULT FROM PLAYIN ON THAT RECORD) BUT LOVED DOING THAT SORTA STUFF ... FOOD AND HARDCORE IS THE BEST COLLAB I CAN THINK OF.

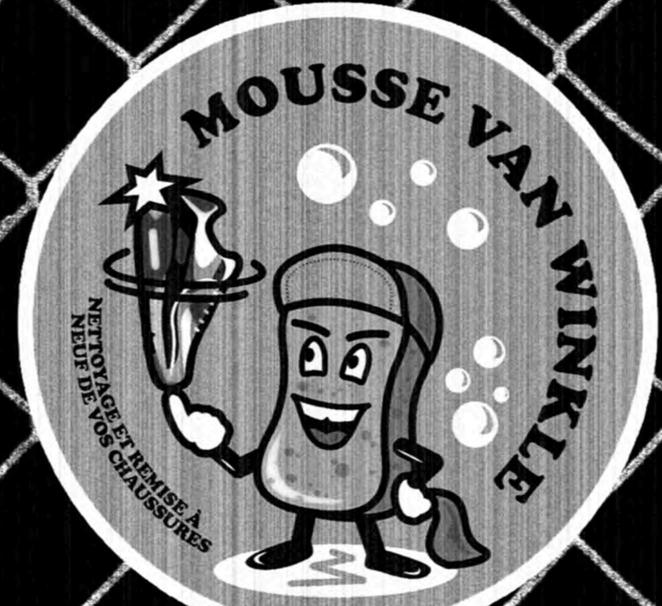
THERE'S BEEN SOME GREAT BANDS COMING OUT THIS YEAR, SO MANY PEOPLE SEEM TO BE MAKING THE MOST OF BEING STUCK IN AND WRITING SOME WICKED TUNES. HOPEFULLY MOST OF THESE BANDS STICK AROUND WHEN STUFF GOES BACK TO NORMAL! IS THERE ANYTHING NEW THAT'S CAUGHT YOUR INTEREST?
ITS BEEN WICKED TO HAVE BANDS STILL BE ABLE TO PUT STUFF OUT AND THE LABELS TO PUSH IT, THAT NEW INFRACTION YOU'RE PUTTING OUT IS ONE IM WAITING FOR ... LIVING MARTYR, MALIGNANT METHODS, BORSTAL, ALL NEW BANDS IM LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING MORE OF. THE NEW IRONED OUT ALBUM IS ONE OF MY FAVOURITE UKHC ALBUMS OUT, THE WRITING ON THAT ALBUM IS INSANE.

BARCLAYS
BARCLAYS STOP FUNDING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY
BARCLAYS CLIMATE CRIMINALS
BARCLAYS: STOP FUNDING FOSSIL FUELS

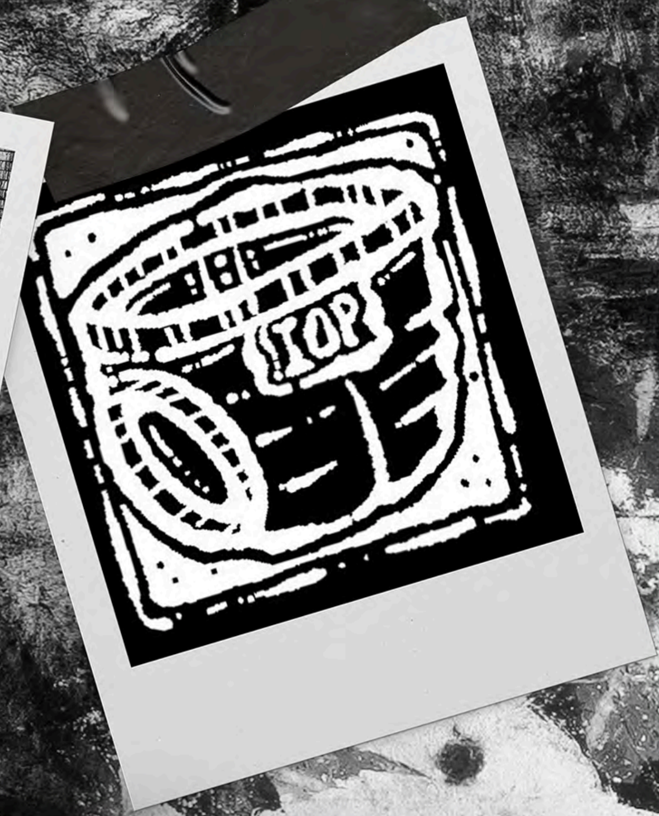
FROM EXPERIENCE, I KNOW IT CAN BE QUITE DAUNTING FOR NEWER BANDS AND ARTISTS SENDING DIY DESIGNS ETC. OUT FOR STICKER AND MERCH PRODUCTION. DO YOU HAVE ANY DESIGN ADVICE FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO SEND YOU CUSTOM STUFF?
ITS ALWAYS DIFFERENT AND DOWN TO WHAT FORMAT THE DESIGNER IS WORKING WITH.. JUST WORK AROUND WITH WHATS BEEN SENT.. A GOOD SCAN AT 600DPI OR IF ITS GRAPHIC STUFF A VECTOR IS USUALLY GOOD FOR STICKERS... IF ITS SOMETHING I CAN HELP DIGITALLY WITH I USUALLY TRY N CLEAN IT UP OR RE-DRAW SO THAT THE FINAL PRINT LOOKS PRO!

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU ABOUT ORDERS OR COMMISSIONS?
STUCKOUTSTICKERCO@GMAIL.COM
HTTPS://STUCKOUTSTICKERCO.BIGCARTEL.COM/

APPRECIATE YOUR TIME SKEL, THANKS. ANYTHING YOU WANNA SAY?
SUPPORT LOCAL VENUES AND DIY HARDCORE...AND FAST FOOD JOINTS.


MOUSSE VAN WINKLE
NETTOYAGE ET REMISE À NEUF DE VOS CHAUSSURES

JOEL PRICE
@INSIDEOUTPANTS



Introduction from Jack:

So for those of you know me well, you'll either know or have heard the many stories of my best pal, Joel. For those of you don't know Joel or about Joel, he is in my opinion one the greatest creative minds I have ever had the pleasure of knowing . Of course being so close with joel will make me seem a little bit biased. But I suggest you all read this article for yourselves and make your own judgement on that.

For Issue #4 we wanted to up the game yet again, so I hit Joel up and asked him to do a cover for us, and he more than delivered on that.

That cool A3 poster that came with your copy of the zine? That's an Inside Out Pants original. I hope that does more than enough to paint the picture (no pun intended) of the type of creative mind that he is.

Over the next 8 pages you're going to be able to get an insight into the mind behind the murals, and a real look into the creative process of Joel Price. The piece itself is a conversation that we recorded over discord, and I had to painstakingly transcribe the approximate 4500 words that were said over the course of a 45 minute conversation. So politely, excuse the grammer and the way we speak, we are Brummiesat the end of the day.

I hope this look at our discussion about him and his art really opens a lot of eyes for every single one of our readers.

If you want to see more of his work and go and support him, head on over to @Insideoutpants on instagram, that's the best place to see what my real world partner in crime has cooking up.

Enough of me talking (well directly to you...) go and read this shit right now.

(P.S - every single one you better go and frame that shit after reading this!)

Jack: So I'm doing a little bit of a chat here today cause you're obviously this issues featured artist. Lovely Issue number 4. You've already done a fantastic cover for this issue, with your own rendition of who we affectionately call Mentally Vexed Kevin.

Joel: Big Kev, mister Kev, Señor Kevino.

Jack: I think this is a good place to start, when I asked you to do the cover I said I wanted you to do your interpretation of Kev, and you wanted a few pointers, but what was your thought process on how to create Kev?

Joel: Well, very simple to be honest, I just kept him true. Was it the 3rd issue where you had Molar do him in the shape of a tooth?

Jack: Yeah issue 3 was Molar.

Joel: Yeah man I didn't want to stray far from the OG Kevin design as it works so well, giving Mentally vexed a gritty hardcore vibe, look, feel, aesthetic and is drawn in such a way that it resembles a lot of the work I actually take influence from with his cross hatched shading, black and white presentation and almost Todd McFarlane styled comic design. I wanted to give him his full body though, I wanted people to be able to see his feet and his shoes which is why I gave him the Air Jordans. I simply just made it my own by giving Kev my signature cartoony makeover and gave him some backup because you know he's rolling deep with the his Crew.

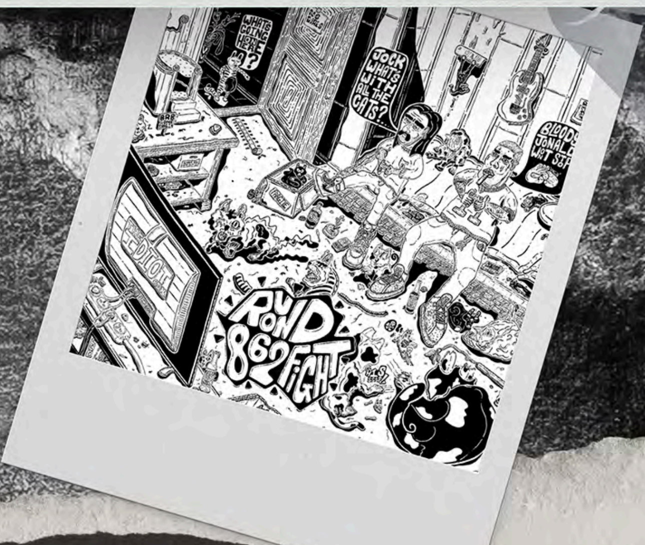
Jack: The few people that have seen it before it comes to print, the cover, they all think it's the best one yet because your art has such a level of extreme detail and almost like a level of "story" and lore that's behind it, and that seems to translate to all of your work, so a lot of your other stuff that I've seen over the years. One piece that sticks out for me is an early piece you did for me I think back in 2019, of me and Dan (Upraised) playing Mortal Kombat in my bedroom.

Joel: Oh god yeah fucking hell, I remember drawing that whilst you two were playing after the Champions League Final between Tottenham and Liverpool. Let me see if I can get the date, because I think that it's August this year I'll have been drawing for three years.

Jack: God that's gone by quick.

Joel: It's funny that you mention the level of detail that I put into stuff, it's funny cause when I did this cover for you lot a while ago, and when I did that I was progressing into the cross hatch work I wanted to do, you know with the shading? And now looking back at that and then looking at the stuff I'm cooking up for some murals I've got planned, I realise I could've done so much more with it. It's really funny cause you don't realise but, it's mad when you've been drawing for so long you can look back and notice that you're j ust getting better and better, and that's like with anything creative. You realise your approach and style is going to keep changing because you're learning new stuff.

Jack: Back to the piece though, the level of detail in it is nuts, because there's stuff that is really key that I notice. For example there's guitar picks all over the room, you've got the shoes I was wearing right, even the carabiner on my trousers is there. There's loads of other stuff in there too, like a throne and box for one of my cats, Jonald, and loads of cats everywhere in my room. My other cat Tiggs is in the door way stood up looking thoroughly un-impressed. Dan's saying to me "what's with all the cats?" And I'm replying with "Bloody Jonald has gone shagging". It's insane that there's all these little details and subplots in the pieces that you can pick up.



Joel: Yeah man, and well that's it enit, I like doing all these details even if they go unnoticed. It's great when you do it for friends because you know they'll pick it up and they'll notice it. I love putting in detail for murals and crap like that because I do it for myself. Even if people don't pick it up, it's still there. It's all part of the process.

Jack: So two and a half years now, three in august. You started off doing digital art and now you've moved into doing some bigger pieces for Seventh Circle?

Joel: So for Seventh Circle, the only stuff that I've actually done for them is those three skulls (Dem Bones), everything else is very much for myself, because I think people aren't wanting to be buying the much bigger pieces that I'm doing as much as like just stuff that sells.

Jack: So something maybe a little bit more commercial as opposed to like filled with lore from your own universe that you've created, the universe of Inside Out Pants?

Joel: Thats it, yeah. So that guy from Seventh Circle he approached me after a gallery show in Wolverhampton in 2019 because of the guy that I got to frame the pieces I displayed was mates with him, and he really liked the stuff I was doing. And I love that he wants to support my stuff, but I don't expect my other stuff that's more for me to sell as well, which is why I did the more commercial pieces for him. But that's not why I create, I do it because it keeps me alive, I've got to be doing something creative yanno.

Jack: Well yeah that's the thing, so for as long as this pandemic has gone on you have been working on something different consistently, there's always been something in the works whether its a work in progress or the early sketching of a new idea. So now, I think one of the coolest things to have come out of lockdown for you, is these murals. Now as far as I'm aware, there are two out there that we know of. The first is or was in Digbeth on Lower Trinity Street?

Joel: Yeah man just down from Dead Wax, near where they do Digbeth Dining Club.

Jack: That was a huge piece, done on huge bits of printing paper and slapped up like billboard style. And the other one, was in Edinburgh. So what was your creative thought process, why did you go with murals?

Joel: Yanno what, I dunno, I'm still very early days in terms of what I wanna be doing and it's now trying to figure out what I want to be doing. I think doing the murals, and even painting the inside of bars and stuff like that, that's what I want to be doing. I like the bigger picture things, I like something that's busy. Think Where's Wally? I love those books and Keith Haring. When I started he was a huge influence for me, but only his bigger more complex stuff and his murals. But yeah, I believe that my work is best appreciated in a bigger format, with the Birmingham one I thought yeah I'll just put it up and see what happens. With the Edinburgh one, it wasn't as big, but the next one I am planning on going bigger. It's so hard to put them up as a one man operation so it's just figuring that one out.

Jack: I can't imagine the logistics of figuring out how to put a piece of art that size onto a wall or another very public space. I mean one, in some places obviously some boring people will try and call the police.

Joel: Yeah that's it man you've gotta be ready, your best bet is to just rock up with a fucking hi vis and if anyone asks just lie and say it's for a university art piece and it'll only be up for two weeks and that you need to take pictures of it. I mean yanno, the mastic paste, I make it myself, it's all eco friendly it's just sugar and wheat and water, you know what I mean?

Jack: Yeah like a temporary glue?

Joel: Yeah man so it'll just decompose, it's not gonna be harming anybodies property or anything.

Jack: And yeah the paper when it gets wet will just disintegrate?

Joel: Bro don't even fucking talk to me about wet paper, doing that Birmingham piece was a fucking nightmare. When we rocked up, one, I got pages the pages printed the wrong way, you're supposed to do it like wallpaper, top down enit. But the way I measured it I was like "it makes more sense to do it longways" so I had three really long sheets of paper. Imagine slapping up three long sheets and then all of a sudden the heavens open. hundering, lightning, pissing it down with rain, and you don't realise until you're there but that roads on a slant and we only had step ladders. So when I came to the top right of the piece I had to stand on that top handle bit of the step ladder, fucking jumping up trying to stick it on. And I look back and I know that I could've fallen and broken something or made myself a bit bad in the brain, and whacking my head off the ground and shit. But I had to keep fighting the rain to put it up, because the rain just wouldn't let me put it up, so I'm surprised that the piece stayed up and lasted as long as it did with how that weather was.

Jack: It's mad because it stayed up for over the month to be fair.

Joel: Yeah and that's it man, obviously people picked at it and the weather battered it, but it's not supposed to be there forever.

Jack: I guess that's the point of it then, street art is there to capture a moment in time, it's of the moment. But in the same breath, let's move on from the murals and look at something of yours that has cropped up in the last three months or so. You've tried your hand at comics, you've put two out there, Simon and The Wet Dream.

Joel: Fucking Simon the bastard man.

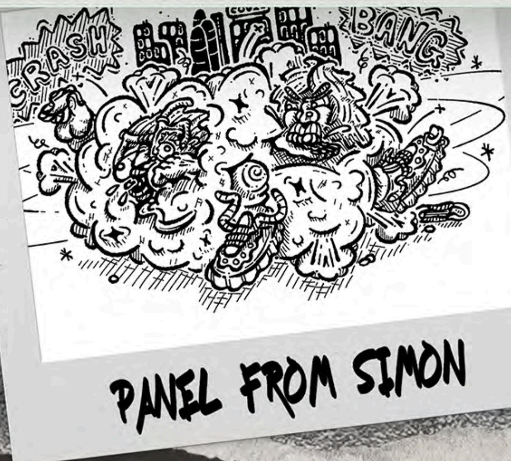
Jack: The whole premise of the strip is that he's a creep?
Joel: Yeah he's a creep, he's an incel piece of shit, the type where he grew up where his Mom mega just praised every shit thing that he does and in return him thinking it's okay to do whatever the fuck he likes, like treating people however he like, and obviously he just gets bost up by a lovely lady at the end for being a pervert and doing some peeping and trying some groping. He's not special, he's just a bastard man.

Jack: The other one is "The Wet Dream" and I know the back story behind this.

*Joel: *hysterically laughing**

Jack: So it's up to you whether you want to explain it or not.

Joel: Yeah nah I'll fucking tell it. So it is based on a true story, but I've only had one wet dream in my lifetime.



PANEL FROM SIMON

**Both hysterically laughing **

Joel: I was on a bit of a drought, I wasn't seeing anybody and I was trying to do, oh what's it called, erm, celibacy? I lasted a good couple of weeks man and then your body just has to naturally flush itself enit. So the one wet dream that I had was that one, head over to my instagram to see it all.

Jack: I hope everyone who reads this piece now goes back to your instagram and reads that comic strip and just howls, because now that people know there's a little bit of a story behind it, it makes it 100 times funnier. But it just goes to show there's so much of you in every single piece you produce, you've hidden your friends in pieces, you've put Harley in some of your work. Your work has so many details and motifs from your own life within it, which is why I like to think that the world that you put onto paper is all set inside your brain.

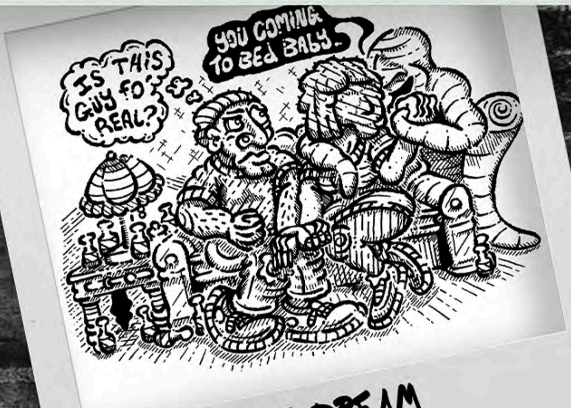
Joel: It's and alternate reality, you're not wrong. I think this is why I'm moving on towards comics now as well, because as I said earlier, I can draw something with loads going on and someone will just look at it and say "Yeah some guys just drawn this" but I need to show people more of what I'm about and what I'm like, and I hope people pick up on that the more I produce these comics. But yeah comics is where I'm heading to at the minute, and I'm taking huge influence from this guy called Robert Crumb, when Seventh Circle picked me up he said that my work reminds him a lot of Crumb. He actually gave me a DVD about Crumb to watch, and after I saw it I was very much like "How have I never known about this guy before?" and I've just been hooked on his work ever since, I'm addicted to it.

Jack: Well we include artists in every single one of our issues, and hopefully there's someone out there that goes "Oh there's like a big interest in art here, and I'm interested in it too, I might start making my own stuff" and all because we feature it here. Maybe someone will read this and see your work and who you're influenced by and go and start for themselves.

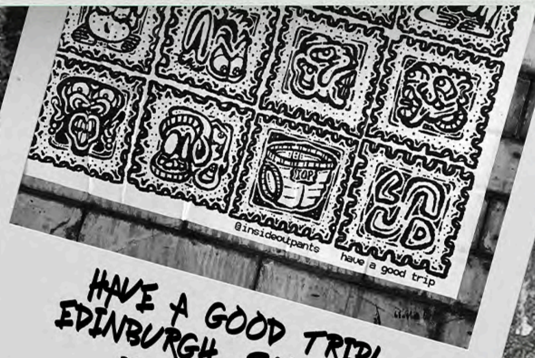
Joel: Yeah man that's what any artists wants really isn't it? Just to inspire someone to create and to do what they need to do to keep themselves alive. It sounds silly to put it that way.

Jack: Well it's the truth isn't it, you do whatever you need to do to get yourself through the day, and sometimes you can find a real passion in that, and for many people that will be finding a creative outlet. So for you to inspire someone to pick up a pencil and start drawing, that has to be a victory for you?

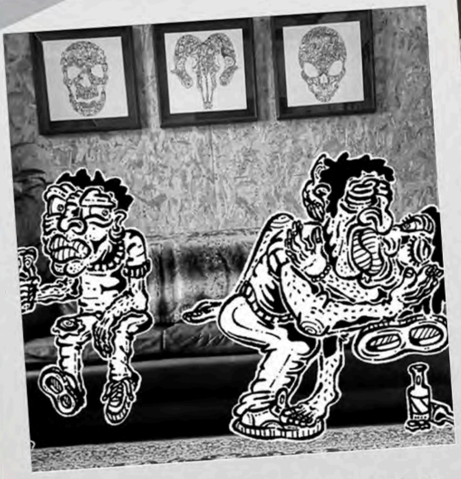
Joel: Thats it man, I don't care about how many people see my shit and whatever, I care about those people that care about my work seeing it and still caring. Thats why I don't really sell much stuff, and make much stuff available for purchase. So that's why when I do sell stuff I do it in small quantities because I know that the people who are gonna buy it are the people that are actually gonna love it.


IS THIS GUY FO' REAL?
YOU COMING TO BED BABY.

WET DREAM
(2021)



HAVE A GOOD TRIP!
EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND
324 INDIVIDUALLY DRAWN LSD TABS



CHARACTERS FROM THE IOP UNIVERSE
IN FRONT OF DEM BONES (2020)

LOWER TRINITY STREET MURAL
DIGBETH, BIRMINGHAM

Jack: And that's the good thing about it. But carrying on, in order to coincide with this zine you didn't just stop at the cover, you produced an A3 print of what you saw this Mentally Vexed issue about. Now you've already hidden every member of Mentally Vexed in the picture, so when people get it, I'd like them to try and find everyone.

Joel: So yeah I knew that you had a Bolt Thrower interview in this issue, so it's all based on that, and I don't know if you noticed the pillars and the stage, but does it remind you of anywhere?

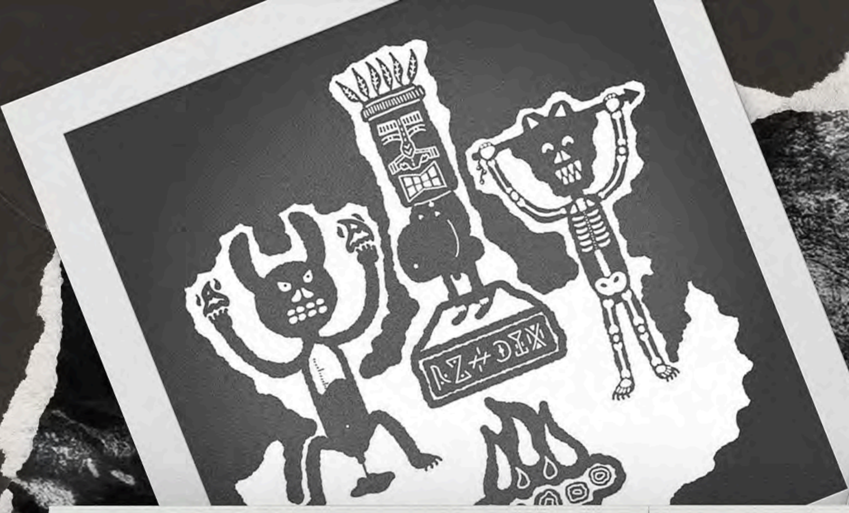
Jack: I didn't to be fair, I'd need to go and have another look at it, but I'm hoping that you give me the juicy nugget now?

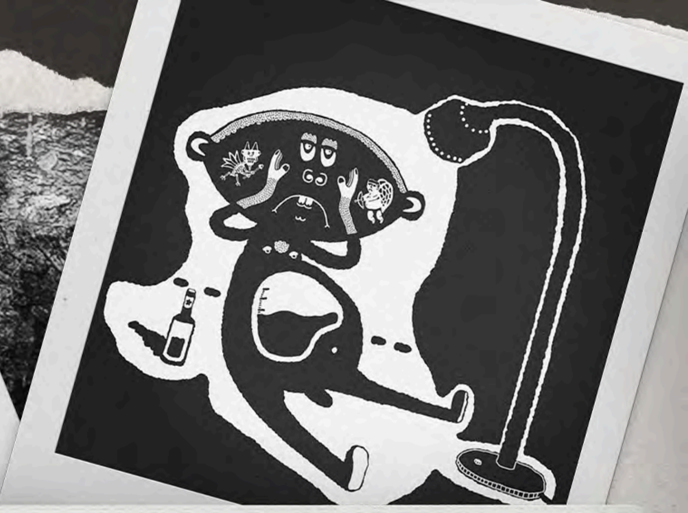
Joel: So I want to do it based on Outbreak Fest because obviously it couldn't happen last year and I loved going there with my friends and hold some of my best memories in hardcore there, it was a yearly ritual. But now its been moved to Sheffield and it isn't happening due to COVID I felt obliged to take this opportunity to make a piece as a nice little permanent snapshot memory for myself and everybody else who attended Outbreak those years it was at canal mills in Leeds. Another reason I wanted to do the poster as a Hardcore show is because I love making my pieces busy and choked full with little details, stories and easter eggs that provides a long look from the viewer to really appreciate, and what doesn't compliment this as much as a Hardcore Show? I remember the first time I saw a Vid of a Hardcore show and it was Tapped Under Ice - "Soul Vice/Reality Unfolds" LAST SHOW This Is Hardcore 2013. It blew my mind, the utter power and energy of the room, so much going on and when everyone storms the stage at the end. That's my work in a nutshell, busy, squished, nonsense, no space to breathe. I made the headline band Bolt Thrower as they're in this issue and well .Gotta respect the all-star level bands that the midlands be putting out. Bolt Thrower is a key staple in Metal and Hardcore and is one of the contributing bands to put Birmingham and the midlands on the map along with the greats: Black Sabbath, Judas Priest etc etc

Jack: Now, because we're a hardcore zine, I'd be 100% totally remised if I didn't ask you about any of it. Let me throw the typical boring question at you. What are your three favourite hardcore bands?

Joel: My three favourite hardcore bands? Ah fucking hell that's such a hard question actually. Fuck. At this moment in time it's Queensway, gotta say Soul Search because they've always been one of my favourites. Fuck, oh nah oh man, I need to pick just one more. Fuck it, King Nine. Fuck it let's have Three Knee Deep as well. Interesting story though of how I first got into hardcore, I was seeing this girl from Coventry and she got me into hardcore, at the time I was still listening to my emo shit and I was mad on Dance Gavin Dance. But basically she took me shopping to Ignite Records in the Oasis in Birmingham, and she picked me out three records that I bought, they were;
Cruel Hand - Lock And Key, Fire & Ice - Not Of This Earth and the third one which was the most important for me, it grabbed me a pulled me into hardcore and that was Trapped Under Ice - Secrets Of The World. And TUI have always been my number one.

Jack: I fucking love TUI, they took that sound which was like blueprinted by bands like Crown Of Thornz and Stout, I guess Stout maybe just cause they were from Baltimore as well. But they took that blueprint and made it their own. It's just such a shame that Heatwave was really poor in my opinion.





Joel: Really? I fucking loved heatwave, I think that record is fucking brilliant. Back when I did Balance, Heatwave was the inspiration and the influence for that band for me. It's all I listened to whilst writing the first few songs.

Jack: I would've never have pulled Heatwave from the sound of that band, never in a million years but I can hear it now in my head. But moving back towards the art stuff, there's something that I really should've opened with and that is why did you pick up, in your case, apple pencil and iPad ? What made you want to create art?

Joel: Well going back three years, the only reason why I started drawing was cause of the downfall of Balance because of one vile individual and all of it just ending, because of what that person did. And I just needed to keep doing something creative because, again I'd just shrivel up man, I'd die if I wasn't doing anything creative if you know what I mean? But I didn't actually start on my iPad, I started on photoshop just using my mouse. So I made my own brush and I just started like that. But the first ones I did, which are at the very bottom of my Instagram feed, were five very primitive, almost very tribal looking pictures.

Jack: I remember the man under the street lamp, I remember seeing those, but they reminded me of Maurice Sendak, not sure if he drew the stuff in Where The Wild Things are but that's what springs to mind.

Joel: Yeah, so the time of my life that I was starting drawing I was going through a bad time. I was going through a breakup and selling the house and shit, and I was doing these drawings, but ah man, I was just a bit of an alcoholic. So the streetlamp one was, the message anyway, was very much me just at home getting pissed and just hating myself, just stopping those two evils from ripping my mind apart. But the last piece I did on the computer with my mouse was for a press poster for a documentary on Birmingham's music scene, called Sabbath Town. That was before I got my iPad and transitioned to creating my work in that format instead.

Jack: I never realised that that was almost the catalyst for the start of this, and that you started off my doing it all with a mouse. But moving on, just a few more questions before we wrap this up. The big one I want to get out the way is how can people look for you, and what can they look forward to?

Joel: So I'm literally just living for the summer now, I've got three things planned already, all of those are murals and one of those is done and I've been sat on that for half a year now and that's killed me to sit on it and not have it out. The other two are almost done.

Jack: Well we look forward to seeing what those are and where they'll end up.

Joel: Yeah man, keep doing my murals and my comics and keep pushing and learning.

Jack: So another thing to ask you. Whats your dream thing to do with your art, what's the next big thing you want to push to achieve to get out there or to do, that you maybe thought three years ago that you wouldn't be able to do?

Joel: Well, it’s a bit of a boring one, but the reason I go into digital art was because I had no choice. Because of the alcohol I had really shaky hands, so every time I tried to put pencil to paper my hands were just everywhere and I couldn’t physically do it, I couldn’t draw anything. But with a mouse and apple pencil its a bit more forgiving. Since then I’m doing a lot better and my hands are better, but I’ve been drawing stuff behind the scenes and painting, stuff that people will never see. But yeah the stuff I wanna do was paint the inside of bars and more individual one off pieces. The big one was supposed to be, oh and you’ve got the slip-mat of the art, it was supposed to go in Ikon Gallery (Birmingham), but because of Covid and other stuff it’s had to be put on hold, but that was supposed to be my foot in the door of “well yeah I’ve put this out there and people have seen my shit, and people will let me paint their bars” but yeah that’s the plan but cause of Covid no ones painting bars at the moment. That and keep doing bigger murals for clients, the one I’m sat on was supposed to in a club for a certain city, but again cause of Covid that’s all been put on hold. But that one was supposed to be bigger than the Birmingham one, but logistically its a nightmare to do by yourself, it was supposed to be a storey and a bit high, like absolutely huge.

Jack: Well hopefully this can be an advert for people to come to you and offer some help to put these massive pieces up, yanno like “I’m handy with a paintbrush and some mastic, I’ll give you a hand”.

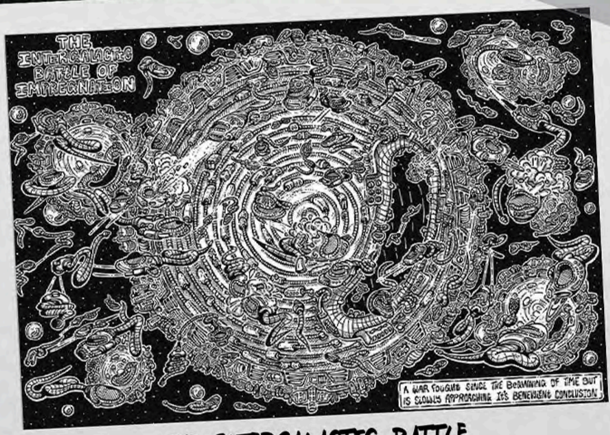
Joel: Well I was hoping you’d come and help me Jack hahaha.

Jack: Well yeah obviously, me there hi vis and hands on me hips just overseeing and making everyone else do all the work. Doing a bit of pointing, distract the feds with a pocket full of snacks. But yeah last thing. Give us some fucking shout outs! Whether that be people, brands, business or anything cool you wanna champion. Can be cool shit or daft shit. Give it to us.

Joel: Right so first of the bat shout out to all of my instagram followers and everyone who shows love and messages me with kind words, you guys are the fuel that keeps me pumping out this nonsense. Shout out to my Mom and my Nan because Jah knows you gotta provide for ya mudda. Shout out to my two best mates, you (Jack) and Tobi aka Ferg. Shout out to Chez over at Seventh Circle (@svnth_crcl) cause if anyone’s reading this and likes to invest in some high quality, limited edition art then head on over to https://www.svnthcrcl.com/ and support the cause. And finally big fucking shout out to Mentally Vexed for having me over on their 4th issue, BUY THEIR SHIT! Oh and, as always, Birmingham is a fucking gang.

Jack: Brother, thank you for giving us your time and an insight into your mind and your life, this has been amazing.

Joel: Anytime man, love to you and love to Mentally Vexed.


THE INTERGALACTIC BATTLE OF IMPREGNATION
A WAR FOUGHT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME BUT IS SLOWLY APPROACHING IT'S BENEVOLENT CONCLUSION

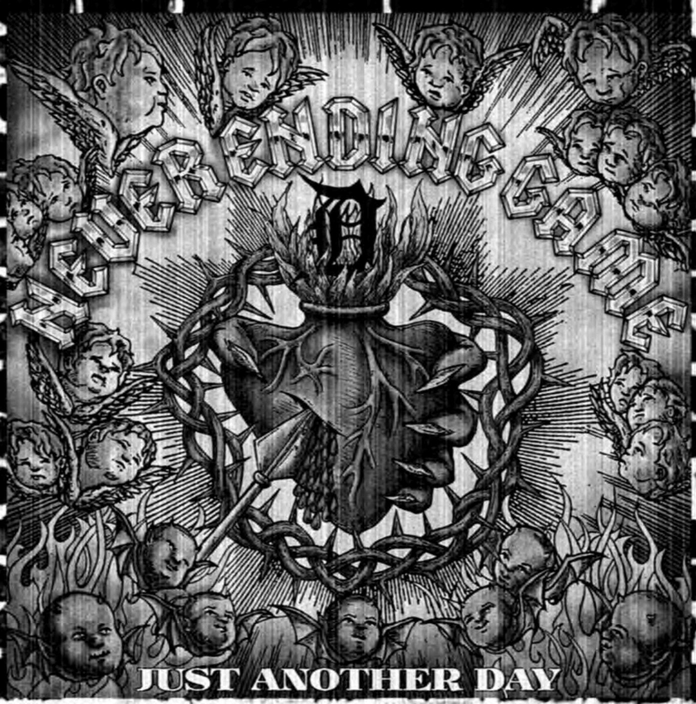
THE INTERGALACTIC BATTLE
OF IMPREGNATION
JANUARY 2021

WOLVERHAMPTON GALLERY SHOW
2019

NEVER ENDING GAME

NEVER ENDING GAME DROPPED THEIR DEBUT LP "JUST ANOTHER DAY" IN OCTOBER 2019, AND WE'VE BEEN FULLY OBSESSED WITH THEM EVER SINCE. NEG CLEARLY PULL INFLUENCES FROM SO MANY DIFFERENT PLACES, WHICH KEEPS EVERY SONG ON THE RECORD FRESH EVEN AFTER 100 LISTENS. THEY ALSO MANAGE TO KEEP A HARD AS FUCK SOUND THROUGHOUT.

GOD FORGIVES - NEG DON'T



YO, THANKS FOR DOING THIS WITH ME. HOW YOU GUYS DOING? KEEPING BUSY?
THANKS HOMIE, WE'RE ALL HANGING IN THERE. PRETTY MUCH EVERYONE HAS JUST BEEN BUSY WORKING. BEEN KINDA HARD KEEPING THE BAND MOTIVATED BEING THAT THERE'S NOTHING ON THE HORIZON TO LOOK FORWARD TO BUT WE'RE WORKING ON STUFF AND HAVE SOME NEW SONGS AND SHIT. REALLY BEEN EMO ABOUT MISSING SHOWS LATELY, BUT TRYNA STAY POSITIVE.

YOU GUYS HAVE ALL PLAYED IN OTHER DETROIT BANDS RIGHT? WHAT BANDS WERE YOU ALL IN BEFORE NEG?
WE ALL KNOW EACH OTHER FROM BEING INVOLVED IN OUR LOCAL HC SCENE AND OUR OTHER BANDS PLAYING WITH EACH OTHER. SOME OF THE OTHER BANDS WE'VE BEEN APART OF INCLUDE: DETAIN, FREEDOM, TRUE LOVE, FACE REALITY, BREAKING WHEEL, DEATH RATE, MOTOR CITY MADNESS, SPIKED COLLAR, RETRIBUTION, GARGOYLE .. AND PROBABLY MANY OTHERS THAT HAVE CAME AND WENT.

DID YOU HAVE PLANS FOR 2020/2021 BEFORE EVERYTHING WENT TO SHIT?
YEAH.. HAD SOME SHOWS AND FESTS AROUND THE USA. WAS GONNA GO INTERNATIONAL FOR THE FIRST TIME WITH THE BAND. WE WERE ABOUT TO ANNOUNCE A JAPAN TOUR RIGHT WHEN THIS COVID SHIT POPPED OFF. HAVING TO SCRAP THAT HURT. THAT WAS BUCKET LIST SHIT FOR US. HIRO AND THE RETRIBUTION GANG ARE THE NICEST DUDES AND WE'RE GONNA MAKE IT HAPPEN ONE DAY. SHOUTOUT TO NUMB.

THE PRODUCTION ON JUST ANOTHER DAY REALLY STANDS OUT, EVERYTHING IS SO CLEAR BUT STILL SO HEAVY. THE BASS IS SO LOUD BUT NEVER GOES MUSHY. WHO MIXED THE RECORD? DID YOU GIVE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS?
THANK YOU, WE'RE ALL REAL HAPPY WIT IT TOO. ANDY NELSON FROM BRICKTOP STUDIOS OUT OF CHICAGO RECORDED AND MIXED IT. HE DID THE LAST DETAIN EP, AND PROBABLY EVERY HARD BAND FROM THE RUST BELT'S RECORD YOU LOVE. THE GOAL FOR THE PRODUCTION WAS SOME KIND OF MIX OF BIOHAZARD STATE OF THE WORLD AND DYIN FETUS DESTROY THE OPP. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT AND CAPTURED ALL OF OUR WANTS PERFECTLY. I THINK HE'LL PROBABLY DO ALL OF OUR SHIT FROM NOW ON..A TRUE MASTERMIND BEHIND THE WHEEL.

SAMPLE PLACEMENT ON THE RECORD SEEMS REALLY WELL THOUGHT-OUT, I'M THINKING GOD FORGIVES, WITH THE "NEG DON'T" RESPONSE ESPECIALLY. WAS THAT ALWAYS PLANNED WHEN WRITING THE SONG, OR WAS IT A LAST MINUTE THING IN THE STUDIO? YOU MUST'VE KNOWN KIDS WOULD BE GOIN NUTS AT THAT HAHA.
FUNNY THING ABOUT THE "GOD FORGIVES" PART IS THAT ITS JUST MY VOICE WITH A PITCH SHIFTED VOCAL EFFECT ON IT. I JUST TALKED THAT PART ORIGINALLY BUT WE WANTED IT TO SOUND MORE EVIL SO ANDY A VOICE FILTER ON IT.. BUT WE'VE HAD A LOT OF PEOPLE ASK WHAT THAT CLIP IS FROM. FOR THE OTHER SAMPLES AND STUFF, WE ALL JUST KINDA ALWAYS KEEP AN EAR OUT FOR SHIT THAT SOUNDS COOL IN A MOVIE OR SONG THAT GOES WITH OUR LYRICS OR VISION. SOME ARE LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS AND SOME ARE PLANNED FROM THE BEGINNING.

Welcome to the...
N.E.G.
NEVER
ENDING
GAME

SOME OF MIKEY'S LYRICS REALLY SPEAK TO ME. I HEARD GOIN THRU SOME THINGS OFF THE EP FIRST, THEN HE DROPPED MORE SELF-AWARE STUFF ON JUST ANOTHER DAY. DO THE LYRICS ALL COME OUT AT ONCE, OR DOES HE SIT ON SONGS AND ADD STUFF BIT-BY-BIT?
I ALWAYS WANTED TO WRITE FROM A HONEST AND UNFILTERED PERSPECTIVE..I DON'T GOT ANYTHING TO PROVE TO NOBODY SO I WRITE FOR MYSELF. BUT IF ANYONE SAW WHAT MY NOTEPAD LOOK LIKE THEY WOULD LOCK ME UP.. I DO IT VERY BIT-BY-BIT AND MOST OF IT IS GOD AWFUL AND PROBABLY READS PSYCHOTIC TO ANYONE NOT IN MY BRAIN. I'LL ADD LITTLE THINGS EVERYDAY WITH NO REAL VISION AND THEN BUILD SONGS OFF OF THAT. I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT I'M DOING BUT THE OTHER GUYS ALWAYS HELP GUIDE ME AND HELP STRUCTURE MY SHIT TO MAKE SENSE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

I'M GETTING HIP HOP FROM SOME OF THE BOUNCIER GROOVES, AND THERE'S SOME PROPER METAL GUITAR LEADS. WHAT DO YOU GUYS LISTEN TO OUTSIDE OF HARDCORE?
YEAH WE'RE ALL OVER THE PLACE. OUR DRUMMER DERRICK IS BIG ON HIP-HOP BEATS, MOTOWN SHIT, ZEPPLIN SHIT.. HE'S A REAL ASS DRUMMER WHO PULLS INSPO FROM ALL KINDS OF PLACES. WE'RE ALL INTO ANYTHING THAT'S BRUTAL.. OLD SKOOL HIP HOP, DEATH METAL, SLAM, ANYTHING THAT MAKES YOU WANNA PUNCH HOLES IN THE WALL. THE BOUNCE GROOVES ARE SORT OF A STAPLE FOR THE BAND NOW,,, I SEEN A LOTTA BANDS DO THAT IN DETROIT OVER THE YEARS AND WE WANNA KEEP IT ALIVE.

"I THINK THERE'S A MENTALITY IN HC TO MAKE SHIT HAPPEN BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY AND I KNOW THAT WILL CONTINUE."

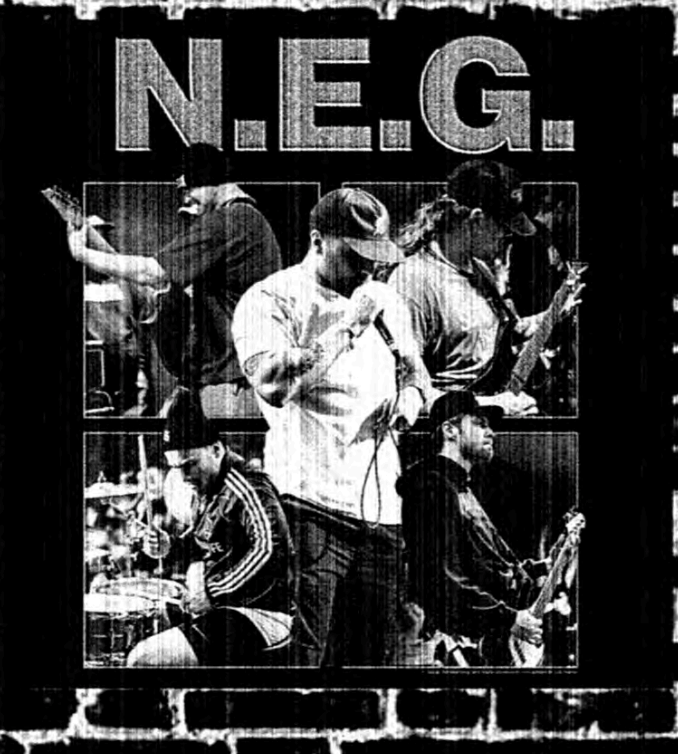
HAVE YOU HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE UKHC SCENE AT ALL? WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OUR SHITTY LITTLE ISLAND? ANY BANDS THAT STAND OUT TO YOU?
MAN NOT AT MUCH AS I'D LIKE. ME AND DENIS PLAYED IN THE UK ONCE WITH OUR OLD BAND FREEDOM AT OUTBREAK FEST AND THAT WAS GREAT. I HOPE WE CAN MAKE IT OVER SOME DAY AS A BAND..I'M A BIG FAN OF A LOT OF THE MUSIC FROM OVER THERE. ME AND DENIS ARE BIG ON ALL THE CLASSIC OI BANDS.. AND WE ALL FUCK WITH TONS OF UKHC; KNUCKLEDUST, SIX FT DITCH, COLD HARD TRUTH, CHUBBY AND THE GANG, CROWN COURT, HIGHER POWER, BIG CHEESE, THE FLEX, KARTEL, BUN DEM OUT, NINEBAR, SPECIAL MOVE, IRONED OUT, STREET SOLDIER.. I'M A BIG FAN OF ALL THE RUCKTION STUFF.. HOPE WE CROSS PATHS WITH SOME OF THOSE BANDS SOME DAY.

I SAW A COUPLE LIVE SETS ON YOUTUBE, FYA AND A SHOW IN PHILADELPHIA, AND THEY BOTH LOOKED INSANE. WHAT NEG SONG IS MOST FUN TO PLAY AT SHOWS?
THOSE WERE THE LAST COUPLE SHOWS WE PLAYED BEFORE SHIT SHUTDOWN. IT WAS STARTING TO FEEL LIKE PEOPLE WERE REALLY VIBING OUR SHIT AND DANCING HARD.. HOPE ANYONE STILL CARES WHEN WE COME BACK. MY FAVORITE SONG TO PLAY IS PROBABLY JOKES ON YOU.. THE WAY THE SONG FLOWS JUST COMES OUT EASY AND YOU CAN DANCE TO THE WHOLE SONG. THE NEW SHIT YOU CAN DANCE TO EVERY PART- IF YOU'RE NOT DANCING DURING THE VERSE YOUR DOING IT WRONG.

LOADS OF PEOPLE BEEN KEEPING BUSY MAKING NEW PROJECTS AND STUFF WHILE EVERYTHING'S FUCKED (GRIDIRON FOR EXAMPLE - THAT DEMO IS SICK!). WHAT "COVID PROJECTS" HAVE YOU GUYS BEEN LISTENING TO?
SHOUT OUT TO GRIDIRON- THAT'S ARE GUITARIST'S WILL'S PROJECT WITH SOME EAST COAST HOMIES. WE'VE BECAME FRIENDS WITH SOME OF THOSE GUYS OVER THE YEARS AND THEY WANTED TO PAY HOMAGE TO THE HARD PAHC SHIT OVER THE YEARS , WITH THAT DETROIT FLAIR. ALSO, PAIN OF TRUTH FROM NY IS DOPE, NEW MINDFORCE, SKINHEAD, AND ONE ON ONE ALL ARE GREAT.

I WANTED TO TALK A LITTLE ABOUT THE WORLD AFTER THE PANDEMIC. HARDCORE WILL OBVIOUSLY SURVIVE, BUT DO YOU THINK THERE WILL BE AS MANY VENUES STILL OPEN WHEN THIS SHIT IS ALL OVER? WILL PROMOTERS STILL WANNA PUT SHOWS TOGETHER?
I THINK HC WILL BE HAPPENING LESS IN PROPER VENUES AND MORE IN RANDOM PLACES WHEN SHOWS COME BACK. AND I'M COOL WITH THAT. SOME OF MY FAVORITE SHOWS HAVE BEEN IN PLACES WHERE SHOWS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN.. SKATE SHOPS, CHURCHES, ALLEYWAYS.. I THINK THERE'S A MENTALITY IN HC TO MAKE SHIT HAPPEN BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY AND I KNOW THAT WILL CONTINUE. WE'LL PLAY ANYWHERE AND A LOT OF VENUES HAVE BEEN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OUR SCENE FOR TOO LONG WITH BULLSHIT LIKE MERCH CUTS, EXTRA SECURITY, AND OTHER DUMB OVERHEAD STUFF.

LISTEN TO NEVER ENDING GAME HERE



IN THE UK, THE BIG EVENT COMPANIES ARE SAYING YOU GOTTA HAVE TEMPERATURE CHECKS AND A VACCINE AND SHIT BEFORE YOU CAN GET INTO SHOWS. 99% OF UK SHOWS ARE DIY SO DOESN'T MATTER, BUT DO YOU THINK BIGGER SHOWS LIKE TIHC AND BLACK N BLUE BOWL WILL HAVE TO DO STUFF LIKE THAT?
IT STILL FEELS LIKE THE IDEA OF SHOWS ARE SO FAR FROM BEING A REALITY HERE IN THE USA THAT I HAVEN'T EVEN REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT ALL THAT. I COULD SEE SOME OF THE BIGGER FESTS HERE MOVING OUT OF THE MAJOR CITIES TO AVOID THAT KIND OF STUFF. BUT WHO KNOWS.. ALL THAT COULD BE A NORMAL THING BY THEN THAT WE WON'T EVEN BE SWEATING IT.

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME, REALLY APPRECIATE YOU DOING THIS WITH US. ANYTHING YOU WANNA SAY?
RESPECT FOR WHAT YOU DO TO CONTRIBUTE TO KEEPIN THE HC SPRIT ALIVE. THANKS FOR FUCKING WITH US. NEW NEG IN 2021 IF WE DON'T DIE FIRST.

"A LOT OF VENUES HAVE BEEN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OUR SCENE FOR TOO LONG WITH BULLSHIT LIKE MERCH CUTS, EXTRA SECURITY, AND OTHER DUMB OVERHEAD STUFF."

PHOTOS BY KRISSY, CHRISSY SALIANAS, ANGELA OWENS, DANIELLE PARSONS, MULLY

REPENT FEST

KNUCKLE DUST

THE OPPRESSED

GRAND COLLAPSE

IRONED OUT

STREET SOLDIER

PIZZATRAMP BURNING FLAG VENDETTA MANTLET
KOLD WAR XL LIFE THE MIGRAINES CHINNED GOING OFF
EL CHAPO INERRANT BUCKFAST AT TIFFANY'S

AFTER PARTY AT THE PIT
FEATURING:

VENDETTA
COVERS SET

RASH DECISION

NUCLEAR FAMILY RECORDS
WARM UP SHOW AT THE PIT
12.11.20 / LINEUP TBA

(WARM UP SHOW & AFTER
PARTY TICKET INFO TBA)

NEWPORT
SOUTH WALES
LE PUB / THE PIT

CHF PROMOTIONS

LePub

The PIT

MAIN EVENT TICKETS SOLD OUT

LISTENING DIARIES!

SUPPRESS SCHC

SECOND CITY HARDCORE

Hello
my name is
SAM HENNERLEY
SUPPRESS & XDELIVERANCEX

It's a Sin - Soundtrack
This take is technically not an official album, but this week I have been listening to the soundtrack of 'It's a Sin', a Channel 4 Documentary series put together by Russell T Davies. The series tells the story of a group of young Gay adults living through the aids pandemic and it affected. An extremely powerful and emotional series anchored by the colourful and bright soundtrack. The music is solely 1980s pop featuring; Pet Shop Boys, Joy Division, Blondie, Soft Cell, Wham!, Duran Duran and more! A wonderful soundtrack for wonderful television.

Out of the Vein – Third Eye Blind
Despite mostly being known for the songs 'Jumper' and 'Semi Charmed Life;' Third Eye Blind have an excellent discography of grunge infused pop rock that always resonates with my college years. I reverted back to this band recently, for no particular reason they entered my brain and remembered how catchy their music is. 'Out of the Vein' is a versatile album with fast-paced rock anthems with a contract of emotional ballads.

I Love you Honeybear – Father John Misty
I love you Honeybear is an intricately put together album created by the comedic singer songwriter Father John Misty. This album is emotional but still heavily carries comedic value; an intensely powerful piece of music with the distinguished voice of Josh Tillman.

Whispers – Narok Bon Din

To put it simply, this is the first heavy piece of music I have been excited about in a while.

I was mostly drawn by the discussion of ‘this band sounds like Kickback.

Narok Bon Din is pure aggression and hard-hitting metallic hardcore.

I am extremely excited to receive my physical record from The Coming Strife.

Shelter – When 20 Summers Pass

When 20 summers Pass by Shelter was released 20 years ago. End Hits records released a re-press of this album on record which I am extremely excited to receive.

I gave this album a full listen this week and was completely emersed in the melodic punk sound of Shelter. This album has been mostly described as a ‘pop punk album’ with songs about ‘being in the van with your friends.’

However, that is the beauty of this album, it’s fun music, sweet and simple.

Mineral – The Power of Failing

The Power of Failing is one of the best emo albums of all time and the perfect band to listen if you’re wanting to learn more about ‘emo’ and what that genre entails.

The Story So Far – Under Soil and Dirt

This week I reverted back to The Story So Far, a real gateway to heavy music for me. Under Soil and Dirt is a prime example of well-written pop punk with an essence of hardcore influences. Despite only being released in 2013, this album is extremely nostalgic for me, reminding me of simpler times being a teenager!

LISTENING DIARIES!

SECOND CITY HARDCORE

Hello
my name is
JACK BEALE-BURCHELL
MENTALLY VEXED RECORDS & SUPPRESS

MENTALLY
VEXED
RECORDS

SUPPRESS SCHC

So I thought the best way to do this would be to choose the first record I listened to on each day, I have a lot of free time at the moment because of the never ending "roni" pandemic. I get through a lot of records whilst I'm working on various Mentally Vexed stuff, whether that be stuff we've got in the pipeline or casual listening whilst I'm making daft shit on photoshop. Unfortunately I'm not going to talk about any of the 54873823548 football podcasts I listen to, as I doubt any of you care all that much about how Paolo Maldini was the blueprint for the modern centre half, or that Guti Hernandez (phenomenal passer of the ball...) was arguably one of the finest players of his generation but his attitude and constant moving of positions hampered his career for Spain and Real Madrid in the Galactico era. Anyway, back to music.

Monday: Moment of Truth - Gang Starr.

Started the week off with one of my top 3 hip hop records. This is my favourite release in their distinguished back catalogue, I think this is some of DJ Premier's best production coupled with Guru's finest and thoughtful lyrical delivery. Standout for me off this record is the title track, the lyrical ability displayed in this is by far some of the most carefully crafted and emotive I've ever heard. If you haven't spun this record ever, now would be the time to do it.

One to listen to: Above The Clouds.

Tuesday: Born To Land Hard - Cold As Life.

Fucking hard record, ashamed to say I only started to spin this band long after they'd been somewhat inactive, but quite simply you can't claim to have been a longtime fan of this band if you weren't around for it happening the first time round. Since discovering and listening to them in recent years, it's really evident the impact and influence they've had on so many bands around these days. Also big fucking respect to Dom over at A389 Recordings for bringing these records to streaming services and repressing them onto some nice vinyl, if you missed out on the preorder be prepared to spunk a small fortune on discogs.

One to listen to: Ten To Midnight.

Wednesday: The Places You Have Come To Fear The Most - Dashboard Confessional.

Told Alec I'd been listening to this whilst on the phone to him, his response was a pained sigh followed by "oh god", Safe to say I don't think he's a fan. Either way I am. I remember the first time I listened to this record, I was in year 9 (during my emo phase) and I was looking for as many acoustic emo albums as possible. I really like this record, I think I put it on for a bit of a nostalgia trip, still think it's great to this day.

One to listen to: The Best Deceptions.

Thursday: Scared To Death - King Nine.

Easily without a shadow of a doubt one of my favourite records of all time, regardless of genre. An absolutely shining and brutal example of real tough guy NYHC.
I have probably, without fail listened to this record at least once every fortnight since it came out in 2013, longevity enit.
King Nine and this record in particular have been a huge influence on me in terms of how I approach writing music, it's very much riff after riff and use of the "Merauder Chord" to create big nasty heavy songs with a metallic edge.
Not gonna lie, I've always seen them as the blueprint for how I like to attempt to create Suppress songs.

One to listen to: Free Will (literally could've picked every track).

Friday: Dirt - Alice In Chains.

Another one of my favourite records of all time, quite simply how can you not like Alice In Chains, especially the Layne Staley era. This record personally has a lot of a history with me, I remember when my Dad was living in a village outside of Solihull called Dickens Heath, he used to take me to ride my BMX at EPIC/Creation Skatepark on Moseley Road in Birmingham (this was around 2004/2005) and this record was one of the one's permanently in the CD rotation in his car. It's kinda come full circle with me with this record, back in December last year me and my Dad started a collaborative 90's alt rock/grunge playlist with Alec after talking about this record on the phone. If anyone wants the link to it, drop us an email at MV and I'll sort you out.

One to listen to: Them Bones.

Saturday: You'd Prefer An Astronaut - HUM.

If you're around my age (26) there's a strong possibility that you discovered HUM in the same way that I did, Saints Row 2. Nutshell, Stars was on one of the radio stations in the game, and in the years before Spotify I googled the shit out of the lyrics and "Stars song sr2" to try and find out who the band was, and low and behold it gives you HUM. HUM were one of those bands for me that really put me onto listening to other bands similar to them, or toured with them in the 90's early 00's (Deftones were a big example of that for me, another band I love.) so in some ways they were a huge gateway band for me. Now being an adult with a level of disposable income and a penchant for collecting records, I'm trying to get their back catalogue off discogs, but the amount of money needed to complete a collection is fucking expensive. Thank god Matt Talbott is now re-releasing all their records on his own label Earth Analog Records, and giving them new pressings.

One to listen to: I'd Like Your Hair Long.

Sunday: "Watch Out!" - Alexisonfire.

AOF's best record? Probably not, that'd have to go to Crisis in my opinion.
Record that has my favourite AOF song on it (Hey, It's Your Funeral Mama), yeah.
Definitely something I'd love to try and snag on 12" if I ever stumbled across it in Ignite at The Oasis Market in Birmingham, but never would go out of my way to find it on discogs, sounds silly when I write it down. It's a great record. I like how this era of AOF was a transitional period for them, still with some of the screamo post hardcore jangly sounds combined with the sound that's really prevalent on Crisis and Old Crows/Young Cardinals. I think this was the first record with Jordan Hastings on drums instead of Jesse Ingelevics, but I could be wrong, I just don't remember seeing him in the video for Accidents. Wan't a deeper AOF cut?
Check out the Switcheroo Series split with Moneen which was around the same era, AOF's covers of the Moneen songs are fucking awesome.

One to listen to: Hey, It's Your Funeral Mama.

Raiden

AT THIS POINT, RAIDEN ARE NOTHING SHORT OF A CLASSIC UKHC BAND. EVEN IF YOU'VE NEVER LISTENED TO THE BAND'S DEATH METAL/HARDCORE CROSSOVER, YOU WILL HAVE HEARD THE NAME AND SEEN THE LOGO. RAIDEN HAVE BEEN PLAYING TOGETHER FOR OVER 20 YEARS, AND STILL SOUND JUST AS EVIL TODAY AS THEY DID WHEN THEY STARTED. AFTER A FEW YEARS AWAY, RAIDEN ARE BACK AND ACTIVE ONCE AGAIN. SINGER ANDY BAZ SPOKE TO US ABOUT ALL THINGS RAIDEN, EBD, AND HIS EARLY DAYS IN THE 90'S UKHC SCENE - CHECK IT OUT;

YO WHAT'S UP, HOPE YOU'RE GOOD? WHAT'VE YOU BEEN UP TO DURING THIS SECOND LOCKDOWN?
HI ALEC, VERY WELL THANK YOU. I HOPE YOU AND ALL AT MENTALLY VEXED ARE SAFE AND WELL.

I'VE BEEN WORKING RIDICULOUS HOURS AT THE MOMENT, ALL FROM HOME AS OUR OFFICES ARE ALL CLOSED. APART FROM THAT, I'VE BEEN BLESSED HAVING LOTS OF TIME WITH MY WIFE AND KIDS. IN THE NORMAL WORLD, I'D USUALLY BE TRAVELLING AROUND THE COUNTRY AND AWAY FROM HOME 3-4 NIGHTS A WEEK. I'M VERY LUCKY IN THAT RESPECT.

CAN WE GO BACK TO THE START, HOW DID YOU GET INTO HARDCORE? WHAT WAS THE FIRST SHOW YOU WENT TO?
I WAS HEAVILY INTO METAL IN THE EARLY 90S AND WOULD RELIGIOUSLY WATCH AND READ ANYTHING RELATED TO IT (HEADBANGERS BALL/KERRANG ETC). I CAUGHT THE BIOHAZARD VIDEO FOR 'PUNISHMENT' AND IT WAS GAME OVER. I WENT THROUGH THE 'THANKS LIST' ON THE ALBUM AND ORDERED WHATEVER OF THOSE BANDS CD'S I COULD GET HOLD OF.

I WENT TO A LOT OF METAL SHOWS IN LONDON AT THE ASTORIA AND LA2 WHEN I WAS 15/16. I THINK THE FIRST HARDCORE SHOW I SAW WAS CIV AT THE LA2 IN 96. SUPPORTING THEM WAS CYNICAL SMILE AND ABOVE ALL WHO ARE BOTH FROM SOUTHEND, ESSEX. I WAS HYPED ON THEM MORE THAN CIV, I COULDN'T BELIEVE THESE BANDS FROM MY HOMETOWN WERE PLAYING A STYLE OF MUSIC THAT I WAS OBSESSIVELY INTO. FROM THERE I DISCOVERED MORE BANDS FROM THAT EARLY SCENE LIKE UNDERSTAND AND WENT TO SEE THEM AS MUCH AS I COULD.

YOU WERE PART OF THE EBD SCENE FROM THE START, IS THAT RIGHT? WHAT WERE THE FIRST BANDS TO COME OUT OF THAT GROUP?
YEAH, IT WAS UNITE, SPECIAL MOVE AND RAIDEN. UNITE AND RAIDEN KNEW EACH OTHER ALREADY AS WE ARE ALL FROM SOUTHEND, WE BECAME FRIENDS WITH SPECIAL MOVE A BIT LATER ON AS WE ENDED UP ON A LOT OF SHOWS TOGETHER. THEY WERE GREAT TIMES, ALL OF US SUPPORTING EACH OTHER, FILLING IN WHEN NEEDED AND DANCING HARD. AS SOME OF OUR LOT WENT ONTO DO NEW THINGS, THOSE BANDS CAME INTO THE FOLD WHICH WERE DEATHSKULLS, POINT DOWN, MY CROSS TO BARE AND EVERY BODY DIES. THAT'S IT.

IT WAS A BUNCH OF FRIENDS THAT MADE MUSIC, HUNG OUT AND WENT TO SHOWS TOGETHER. EVEN THOUGH MOST OF THEM AREN'T DOING THE MUSIC NOW, WE STILL HANG OUT TO THIS DAY.

THESE DAYS THERE'S LIKE 100 PROMOTERS IN EVERY TOWN AND CITY. I'M CURIOUS TO KNOW IF THIS WAS ALWAYS THE CASE. WAS THERE MANY SHOWS ON AROUND THE LATE 90'S/EARLY 00'S?
THERE WASN'T AS MANY AS THERE ARE NOW, BUT THE EBD BANDS ALWAYS HAD A LINK SOMEWHERE. I'M ECHOING A LOT OF HEADS, BUT THE LIKES OF PIERRE, IAN GLASPER, NICK ROYLES, LIL AT HOUSEHOLD NAME RECORDS AND SHEEP REALLY BROUGHT ALL THE SCENES TOGETHER AND OPENED UP A ROUTE TO BE ABLE TO PLAY ACROSS THE COUNTRY THAT EVENTUALLY BECAME THE NORM. THE 'TIME FOR SOME ACTION' NEWSLETTER WAS LIKE A YELLOW PAGES OF CONTACTS THAT YOU COULD REACH OUT TO PEOPLE OR THEY TO YOU. THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW YOUR WEEKEND BECAME PLAYING PLACES YOU HAD NEVER BEEN TO BEFORE LIKE YEOVIL OR PETERBOROUGH HA.

IN SOUTHEND IT WAS MAINLY THE BANDS PUTTING ON THEIR OWN SHOWS. WITH UNITE, WE PLAYED OUR FIRST SHOWS IN LEEDS AND LONDON; NO ONE WOULD PUT US ON IN OUR HOMETOWN, SO WE DID OUR OWN. WE HAD STAMPIN GROUND, KNUCKLEDUST AND NINEBAR AT A VENUE CALLED SAKS IN SOUTHEND. IT WAS INSANE.

FOLLOWING THAT CAME A FEW PROMOTERS THAT I GUESS WERE INSPIRED BY WHAT THEY SAW AND WANTED TO PUT ON BANDS THAT THEY WERE INTO. IT WAS HEALTHY FOR A WHILE.

ARE THERE ANY SHOWS AROUND THAT TIME THAT STICK IN YOUR MIND AS BEING ESPECIALLY GOOD OR CRAZY?

BAH THERE'S LOADS THAT STICK OUT.

OUTSIDE OF ESSEX, I'D SAY MY FIRST UKHC SHOW AT THE RED EYE SEEING NINEBAR AND PUBLIC DISTURBANCE IN MID '97 WAS A GAMECHANGER, SEEING THAT FIRST PILE ON WAS SO CONFUSING BUT IMPACTFUL. INDECISION AND KNUCKLEDUST A FEW MONTHS LATER AT THE SAME VENUE WAS INSANE. HATEBREED AT THE ASTORIA. THERE WAS AN ALL-DAYER AT THE SWAN, TOTTENHAM IN LATE 2000 WHERE SPECIAL MOVE HEADLINED; IT WAS UTTER CARNAGE WHEN THEY PLAYED DARK OVERLORD.

IN ESSEX, THAT FIRST SAKS SHOW WITH SG AND KD WAS WILD AND STILL STANDS OUT. I REMEMBER THE NEXT DAY HAVING TO GO BACK TO THE VENUE TO FACE THE MUSIC FROM THE OWNER AND WHEEL THE PA WE RENTED BACK IN A SHOPPING TROLLEY. SO GRIM BUT WORTH IT.

RAIDEN TO ME IS FRANTIC, DARK AND JUST NASTY. THE BAND SOUNDS VERY DEATH METAL INFLUENCED, AND I THINK A LOT OF THE ARTWORK REFLECTS THAT TOO. DO YOU GUYS LISTEN TO A LOT OF DEATH METAL?

THAT'S FAIR, CERTAINLY IN ADDITION TO THE BANDS I'VE MENTIONED THERE WAS AN INFLUENCE FROM MORBID ANGEL, DEICIDE, OBITUARY AND CRYPTOPSY. APART FROM BANDS LIKE SLAVERAC AND WITHDRAWN, THERE WASN'T MANY METALLIC BANDS ABOUT IN THE UK WHEN WE STARTED, BUT IT APPEARED TO BE THE STANDARD IN EUROPE. I REMEMBER TRAPPED IN LIFE FROM FRANCE COMING OVER AND SMASHING IT AT A VENUE IN COVENT GARDEN.

NOWADAYS, WE'VE ALL GOT VARIED LISTENING TASTES. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO RAIDEN, WE'RE ON THE SAME PAGE AND IT HAS TO SOUND AS EVIL AS POSSIBLE. THERE IS NO HAPPY HERE.

HOW DID RAIDEN START? DID YOU KNOW THE OTHER GUYS ALREADY?

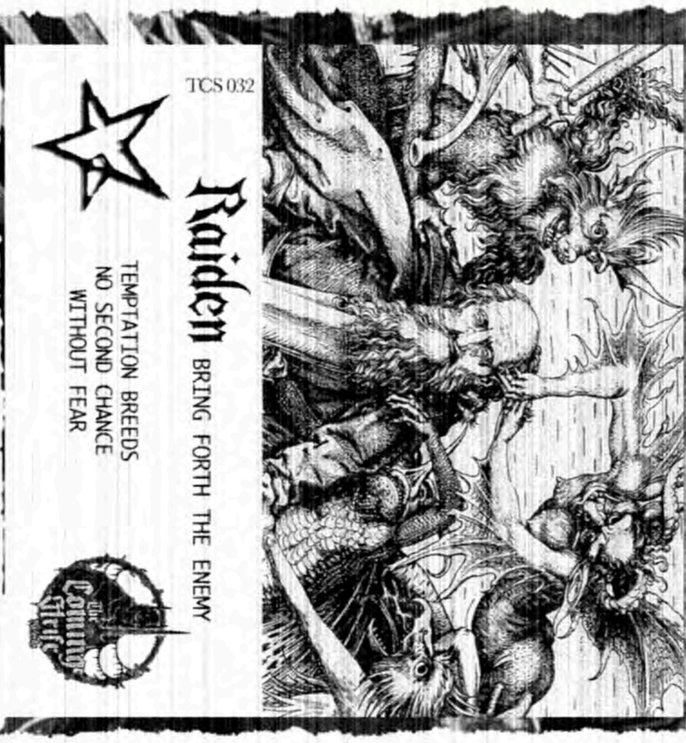
IT WAS 2 DIFFERENT GROUPS OF PEOPLE COMING TOGETHER THROUGH A LOVE OF UKHC. ANT BRIGGS (GUITARIST) AND I WENT TO SCHOOL TOGETHER AND WENT TO THOSE EARLY ABOVE ALL AND UNDERSTAND SHOWS IN SOUTHEND. I MET DAZ HILSDON (GUITARIST) AND ROB FRENCH (DRUMS) COMING HOME FROM SOME OF THE EARLY UKHC LONDON SHOWS. THEY WERE FROM A DIFFERENT TOWN IN ESSEX, I'D SEEN THEM AT SEVERAL ABOVE ALL SHOWS IN SOUTHEND AND STRUCK UP A CONVERSATION WITH THEM. IT WENT FROM THERE. WE WERE ALL INTO THE EURO METALCORE SOUND COMING FROM BANDS LIKE LIAR, CONGRESS AND DEFORMITY AS WELL AS EARTH CRISIS. WE SPENT ABOUT A YEAR PRACTICING AND WRITING AS IT WAS PRETTY MUCH THE FIRST BAND THE OTHER GUYS HAD DONE.

YOU SELF-RELEASED THE FIRST DEMO, BRING FORTH THE ENEMY, I THINK ON CASSETTE RIGHT? HAD ANY OF YOU DEALT WITH PHYSICALLY RELEASING MUSIC BEFORE? WHAT WAS THE PROCESS BEHIND THAT?

YES THAT'S RIGHT, IT WAS THE FIRST RELEASE FOR MOST OF THE BAND. I WAS IN UNITE AT THIS POINT AND THE 'PLAYING WITH FIRE' MCD HAD BEEN RELEASED ON IAN GLASPER'S LABEL BLACKFISH RECORDS.

WITH RAIDEN, WE'D BEEN PRACTICING FOR ABOUT A YEAR AND WANTED TO PLAY A SHOW. WE THOUGHT PUTTING A DEMO OUT WOULD HELP. WE RECORDED AT NO RECORDING (THEN MUSHROOM STUDIOS) WITH JOHN HANNON (EX UNDERSTAND GUITARIST) AND RECORDED IT IN A DAY. IT WAS PRETTY MUCH RECORDED LIVE, I THEN CHUCKED MY VOCALS OVER THE TOP OF IT. WE WERE BRICKING IT THE WHOLE TIME, BUT IT CAME OUT OK. WE GAVE MOST OF THEM AWAY FOR FREE.

BY THE WAY, IT DIDN'T HELP GET US A GIG HA. WE HAD TO PUT ON OUR OWN.



AFTER THE DEMO, YOU DID THE KILLING FIST, WHICH CAME OUT ON RETRIBUTE RECORDS. I HAD A LOOK AT THEIR DISCOGS AND, BESIDES A SPLIT WITH VOORHEES ON, I DIDN'T RECOGNISE ANY OF THE BANDS. CAN YOU GIVE US SOME BACKGROUND ON THAT EP AND THE RELEASE?

CHRIS MEADOWS (EX SLAVEARC/WITHDRAWN VOCALIST) RAN THAT LABEL. I BELIEVE THE FIRST RELEASE HE DID WAS WITH PUBLIC DISTURBANCE. WE'D DONE A FEW GIGS BY THIS POINT AND OUR DEMO HAD STARTED TO GET ABOUT. WE SUPPORTED INTEGRITY AT THE CAMDEN UNDERWORLD LATE IN '99 AND A FEW DAYS LATER CHRIS RANG ME AND OFFERED TO PUT OUT A MCD FOR US. THE LABEL OFFERED TO TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING, WE JUST HAD TO GO IN AND RECORD IT. WE WERE 19 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME, SO IT ALL FELT SURREAL THAT THIS STRANGER WAS WILLING TO DO ALL OF THIS FOR US.

WE RECORDED WITH GRANT MATTHEWS AT ADELAIDE STUDIOS, ESSEX IN FEBRUARY 2000. GRANT HAS RECORDED ABOVE ALL, SPECIAL MOVE, UNITE AND A WHOLE BUNCH OF UKHC BANDS OVER THE YEARS. HE WAS GREAT AND VERY PATIENT WITH US, WE JUST DIDN'T TAKE SERIOUSLY AT ALL. WE ARRIVED LATE AND LEFT EARLY EVERY DAY AS WE WERE MORE INTERESTED IN GOING OUT AND PARTYING. WE DIDN'T EVEN GET IT MASTERED UNTIL RECENTLY THANKS TO SYKES AT UKHC DIGITAL ARCHIVE.

IT WAS DISAPPOINTING TO US, BUT WE ONLY HAD OURSELVES TO BLAME.

DID RAIDEN OFFICIALLY "BREAK UP" AFTER THE KILLING FIST? IT WAS A LONG TIME BEFORE WE HEARD FOLLOW-UP RECORD THE DEVIL'S HANDPRINT.

THERE WERE A FEW LINE UP CHANGES AFTER THE MCD, WE STRUGGLED WITH A SECOND GUITARIST. WE GOT TO PLAY ALL OVER THE UK, WHICH WAS FUN AND RECORDED A SONG FOR THE BLACKFISH RECORDS UKHC COMPILATION IN 2001. PROBABLY OUR MOST PROMINENT CHANGE WAS DARIUS FROM SPECIAL MOVE JOINING ON DRUMS, WE REALLY STEPPED UP OUR GAME FOLLOWING THAT. WE WROTE A NUMBER OF NEW SONGS, BUT THE SHOW OFFERS HAD DRIED UP AND SOME OF THE BAND JUST NEEDED A BREAK TO FOCUS ON OTHER THINGS IN AROUND 2002.

WE DID A REUNION AT NINJAFEST 2004, THEN ANOTHER ONE AT ESSEXFEST IN 2007. AFTER THAT IT JUST WENT ON THE BACKBURNER FOR A GOOD FEW YEARS. DARIUS WAS BUSY IN SPECIAL MOVE, ANT BRIGGS WAS SHAPING A CAREER PLAYING GUITAR. I WAS IN 50 CALIBER AND MY CROSS TO BARE ALSO, WHICH GOT QUITE BUSY.

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO WRITE AGAIN? DID ANYTHING FEEL DIFFERENT AFTER SUCH A LONG BREAK?

IN 2012, THE 5 OF US WERE HANGING OUT IN SOUTHEND ONE EVENING AND SOMEONE CHEEKILY ASKED IF RAIDEN WOULD REFORM FOR A SHOW IN SOUTHEND – IT WAS AN INSTANT YES FROM EVERYONE. WE DID THE SHOW, AND IT WENT DOWN WELL. RUCKTION ASKED US TO PLAY THE 12BAR A FEW MONTHS LATER, WHICH FELT REALLY GOOD. WE ALL AGREED THAT RAIDEN WAS SOMETHING WE WANTED TO CONTINUE. MOST OF US HAD BECOME DADS BY THIS POINT, SO WE AGREED THAT SHOWS WOULD BE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN DUE TO THOSE COMMITMENTS. WE STILL HAD A FEW EXISTING SONGS WRITTEN FROM THE EARLY 00'S AND FELT WE HAD A FEW MORE IN US SO WE DECIDED TO HAVE A GOAL TO RELEASE A NEW EP.

LISTEN TO RAIDEN - THE DEVIL'S HANDPRINT HERE

THERE'S A VERY MOODY ATMOSPHERE ON THE DEVIL'S HANDPRINT, THE WHOLE EP IS A LOT MORE OF AN EXPERIENCE THAN THE OLDER STUFF (SORRY, I DON'T MEAN TO PUT DOWN PAST RELEASES AT ALL!). WAS THERE ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR THAT PROMPTED THIS?

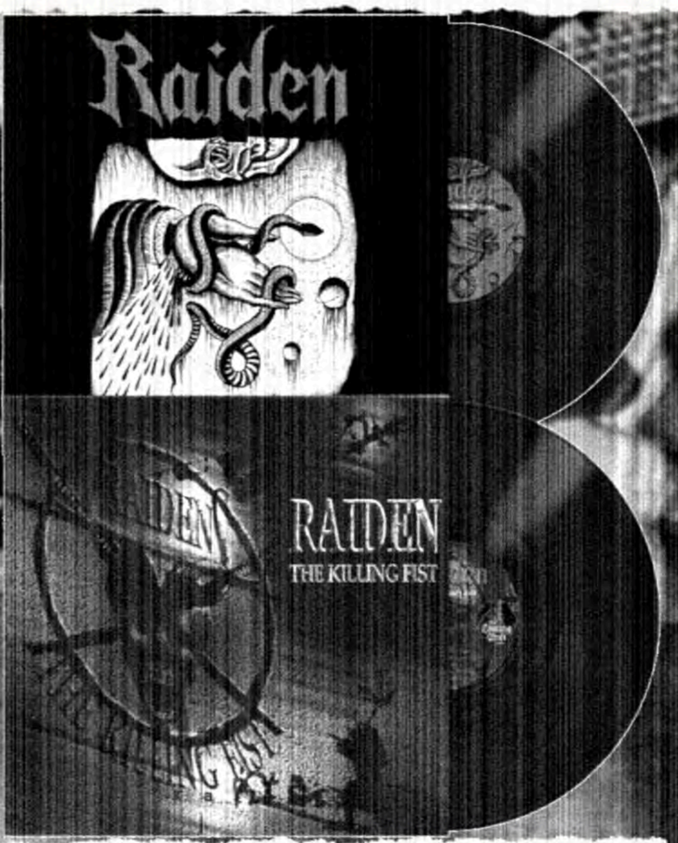
AS IT WAS 15 YEARS FROM THE PREVIOUS RECORDING, WE KNEW WE HAD TO DO SOMETHING WITH IT TO MAKE IT STAND OUT. 'THE KILLING FIST' WAS QUITE RUSHED, FROM WRITING TO RECORDING AND RELEASING. THIS TIME ROUND, THERE WAS NO PRESSURE AND WE WERE IN NO RUSH. WE WANTED TO ADD THE ACOUSTIC SECTIONS TO GIVE IT AN ATMOSPHERIC VIBE, ANT IS AN INCREDIBLE GUITARIST AND I WANTED HIM TO SHOW THAT IN THE PIECES HE ADDED. WE'RE ALL PROUD OF IT, FROM THE CHAOS TO THE CALM DARK ACOUSTIC SECTIONS, IT CAME OUT JUST RIGHT. SCOTT MOVE DID THE ARTWORK TOO, SO IT TURNED OUT TO BE A TRUE EBD AFFAIR.

THE RECORD SOUNDS FUCKING INCREDIBLE, WHO PRODUCED IT?

THAT'S REALLY KIND OF YOU. WE WENT WHERE WE WOULD BE COMFORTABLE AND WITH SOMEONE WE TRUST; IT WAS RECORDED BY JOHN HANNON AT NO RECORDING STUDIO, ESSEX. HE SMASHED IT.

HOW DID THE RELATIONSHIP WITH TCS START? OLI IS DOING SO MUCH AMAZING STUFF, AND THE 12" WITH THE KILLING FIST ON IS SUCH A COOL IDEA.

BIG UP OLI! HE REACHED OUT AFTER READYFEST, WHICH COMPLETELY TOOK US ALL BY SURPRISE. IT WAS DEF A RISK FOR HIM AS WE WEREN'T AS ACTIVE COMPARED TO THE OTHER BANDS HE HAD PUT OUT. WE'VE BEEN IN TOUCH EVER SINCE, HE'S HELPED OUT WITH THE 'THEN AND NOW: ESSEX HARDCORE PODCAST' AND THE LABEL I RUN (WITH NIKI NAILBOMB), GIVING ME ADVICE ETC. THAT CAULDRON RELEASE IS ONE OF MY FAVOURITE RECORDS ALONG WITH THE SPLITKNUCKLE EP TOO.

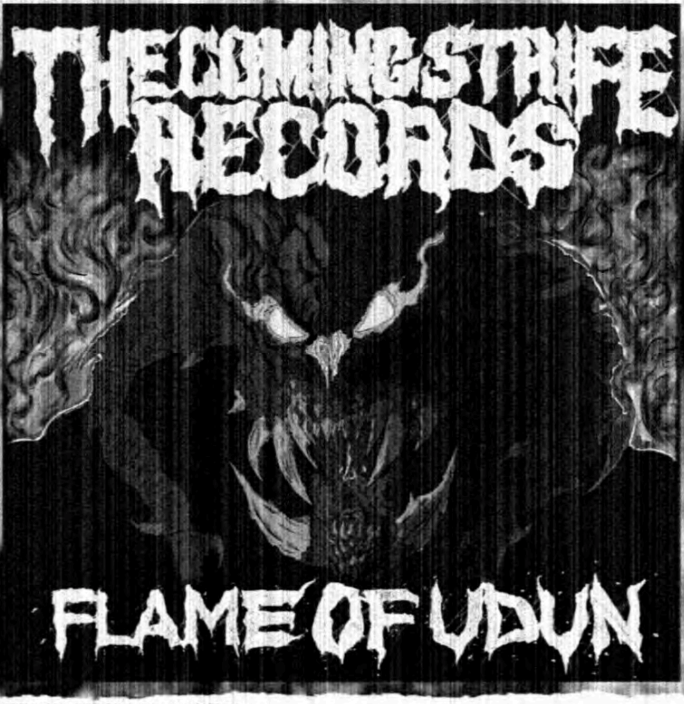


MOST RECENTLY, YOU CONTRIBUTED A COVER OF VISION OF DISORDER'S SUFFER FOR THE TCS COMP. IT WAS GREAT TO SEE A WEDGE RAISED TO HELP FUZZBRAIN STUDIOS START TO REBUILD. DID YOU LISTEN TO THE REST OF THE COMP? WHAT DID YOU THINK?

OF COURSE, I'M A BIG TCS FAN. WE CONSIDERED DOING A NUMBER OF OTHER COVERS THAT WOULD PROBABLY BEEN OBVIOUS TO DO, SO WE WENT FOR A TUNE MORE CONNECTED TO OUR HARDCORE ROOTS. VOD ARE INCREDIBLE AND TIM'S VOCALS WERE AN INSPIRATION WHEN I FIRST STARTED DOING THIS.

PERSONAL FAVOURITES GO TO SPLITKNUCKLE, BURN ALIVE, CRUELTY AND CLIMATE OF FEAR. THE KRUELTY SLAVEARC COVER WAS UNEXPECTED AND BRILLIANT TOO. I THINK IT WAS A REALLY COOL IDEA BY OLI AND WE'RE GRATEFUL TO HAVE BEEN A PART OF IT. MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT RAISED MONEY TOWARDS FUZZBRAIN WHICH HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE SCENE AND MORE.

> ***"WHEN IT COMES TO RAIDEN, WE'RE ON THE SAME PAGE AND IT HAS TO SOUND AS EVIL AS POSSIBLE. THERE IS NO HAPPY HERE"***



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ARE THERE ANY CURRENT BANDS THAT YOU LISTEN TO? WHO ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO WATCHING WHEN WE GO BACK TO NORMAL AND WE CAN SAFELY DO SHOWS?

UK WISE IT'S ALL ABOUT SPLITKNUCKLE AND NIHILITY, THEY ARE AMAZING – AS PEOPLE AND THEIR TALENT. I REALLY RATE CAULDRON, CLIMATE OF FEAR AND LAST WISHES TO NAME A FEW. THE NEW IRONED OUT RECORD IS GREAT. I CAN'T WAIT FOR UKHC RETURNS, IT'LL BE GREAT TO BE THERE. THERE ARE SOME NEW BANDS COMING OUT OF ESSEX WHICH IS EXCITING TO SEE SUCH AS MUGS GAME.

IN GENERAL, JESUS PIECE, SANCTION, YEAR OF THE KNIFE AND ENEMY MIND FLOAT MY BOAT.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR RAIDEN?

WE'VE HAD A LINE-UP CHANGE THIS YEAR. WE HAVE CHRISTY O'CONNOR (SPLITKNUCKLE/STAGES IN FAITH) ON GUITAR NOW, ALONG WITH ELLIOTT BLACK (EX-LOCK AND KEY) ON BASS. THEY PLAYED ON THE TCS COMPILATION AND IT'S A PLEASURE TO HAVE THEM IN THE BAND. THERE WAS NO BEEF WITH LEON AND DENNIS, THEY JUST COULDN'T PUT IN THE TIME TO WRITE AND GIG. IN THE PAST, I'M CONSCIOUS THAT WE'VE BEEN DIFFICULT TO COMMIT TO SHOWS AND WE WANT THAT TO CHANGE. WE WANT TO PLAY REGULARLY, SO GET IN TOUCH.

WE'VE BEEN WRITING A NEW EP, WE'VE GOT 6 NEW SONGS WHICH WERE GETTING INTO A TIGHT STATE TO RECORD UNTIL LOCKDOWN 2. WE'LL PICK THAT BACK UP WHEN WE CAN GET BACK TO REHEARSING. NO IDEA HOW OR WHEN IT'LL COME OUT, WE JUST WANNA GET IN THE STUDIO AND TAKE IT FROM THERE.

AFTER 20 YEARS, RAIDEN IS STILL ALIVE WHICH IS EXCITING FOR US.

THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME MAN, ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY, PROMOTE, SHOUTOUTS ETC?

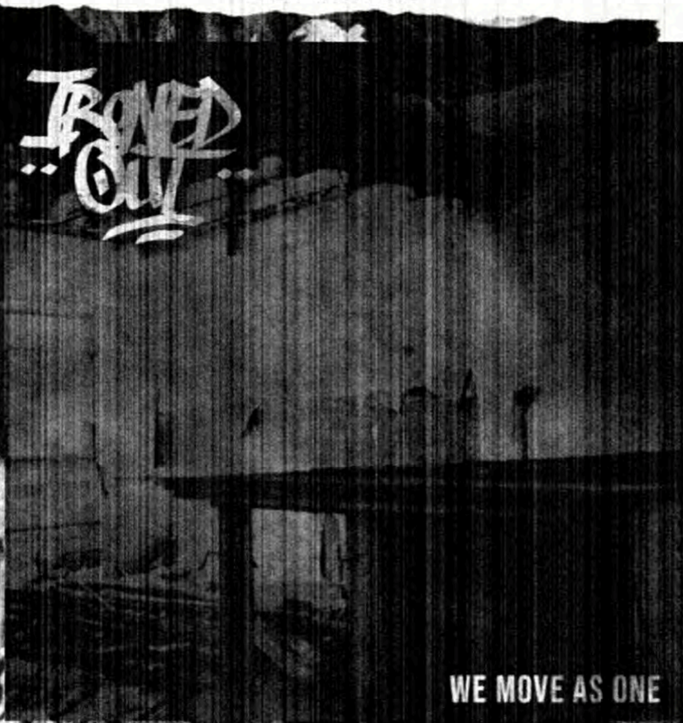
THANK YOU TO YOURSELF AND MENTALLY VEXED FOR WANTING TO SPEAK TO US, WE REALLY APPRECIATE IT. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK WITH THE ZINE, I'M A BIG FAN. IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED TO HEAR ABOUT ESSEX BANDS, PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR PODCAST – 'THEN AND NOW: ESSEX HARDCORE PODCAST' - THERE'S HOURS OF CONTENT AVAILABLE VIA ALL THE USUAL PLATFORMS. WE HAVE ALSO JUST RELEASED NASTY BASTARD AND DEATHSKULLS ON VINYL, KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OUR FEST NEXT JUNE. THANKS TO EVERYONE THAT HAS GIVEN RAIDEN THEIR TIME OVER THE YEARS, MASSIVE SHOUT TO UKHC, SPLITKNUCKLE, SPECIAL MOVE, NASTY BASTARD, OLI AT TCS, SYKES AT UKHC DIGITAL ARCHIVE AND THE READY EYE COLLECTIVE FOR ALL THE SUPPORT. EBD FOREVER.

IRONED OUT

IRONED OUT JUST RELEASED ONE OF THE BEST RECORDS WE'VE HEARD IN A LONG TIME, AND WE MOVE AS ONE IS DEFINITELY CEMENTED IN OUR DAILY ROTATION ALREADY. THE BAND HAVE SPENT THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS TEARING UP STAGES ACROSS THE UK AND EUROPE, EVEN JOINING THE REBELLION 2019 TOUR WITH MADBALL.

WE MOVE AS ONE CAME OUT IN MID-OCTOBER, AND SEES IRONED OUT EXPERIMENTING MORE THAN EVER WITH DIFFERENT SOUNDS AND STYLES - SEE OUR FULL THOUGHTS ON THE RECORD IN OUR REVIEW CORNER.

RESPECT TO LOUIS GINO FOR TAKING THE TIME TO TALK WITH US.



HI LOUIS, HOW YOU KEEPING? YOU'VE BEEN MAD BUSY THIS YEAR WITH 2 BANDS, A NEW RECORD FROM EACH (LIVE CD'S COUNT!), REC, EBU PODCAST, THEN INTERVIEWS AND GUESTING ON PODCASTS ON TOP. SEEMS LIKE YOU ENJOY GETTING STUCK IN WITH STUFF, NO?
I'M ACTUALLY TRYING TO WIND THINGS DOWN HAHA. ADMITTEDLY, I'VE HAD A LITTLE TIME OVER LOCKDOWN TO GET INVOLVED WITH PODCASTS AND OF COURSE AS WE "CAME OUT OF IT" I MANAGED TO RECORD THE PAVEMENT STRONG/PAGANS VIDEO WITH IRONED OUT AND THE LIVE CD WITH LAST ORDERS. JUST HAD TO BE DONE REALLY. TIME WAITS FOR NO ONE.

WE MOVE AS ONE JUST CAME OUT ABOUT 4 WEEKS AGO (AT TIME OF INTERVIEW). LOADED QUESTION, SORRY - WERE YOU HAPPY WITH THE END RESULT? HOW DO YOU FEEL IT'S BEEN RECEIVED?
YEAH BEYOND CHUFFED WITH HOW IT CAME OUT. THE PRODUCER (TOM - BOOKHOUSE STUDIOS) I FEEL DONE A GREAT JOB TO CAPTURE OUR TRUE SOUND. THE FEEDBACK FROM FRIENDS, FAMILY AND SUPPORTERS HAS BEEN PHENOMENAL IT REALLY HAS. JUST A SHAME THERE ARE NO SHOWS TO FOLLOW IT UP WITH SADLY.

IN THESE ENDS HAD SOME GREAT CLEAN GUITARS, BUT I NOTICED STRAIGHT AWAT THERE WAS A LOT MORE MELODY THAN EXPECTED ON THE LP - WAS THAT A NATURAL THING OR WAS IT LIKE A SPECIFIC GOAL FOR THE RECORD?
I THINK WE ALWAYS TRY TO DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY FROM THE PREVIOUS RELEASES. IT'S ALL ABOUT PROGRESSION RIGHT? THIS ISN'T YOUR STANDARD "HARDCORE BAND" EITHER. WE ALL HAVE OTHER MUSICAL INFLUENCES WHICH IMPACTS THE WAY WE PUT OUR TUNES TOGETHER.

WE MOVE AS ONE GOES FROM BEATDOWN TO PUNK SECTIONS WITH SO MUCH OTHER SHIT IN BETWEEN. SO MANY BANDS TRY, BUT ULTIMATELY FUCK THIS UP, DO YOU THINK THERE'S A RIGHT AND WRONG WAY TO MIX STYLES?
NO DOUBT. YOU DON'T WANT TO COME ACROSS CHEESY MUSICALLY AND LYRICAL TALK ABOUT STUFF THAT HAS NO BEARING ON YOUR LIFE WHATSOEVER. BUT SAYING THAT MUSIC IS AN EXPRESSION, SO WHAT YOU THINK RIGHT MAY SOUND WRONG TO OTHERS AND VICE VERSA.

YOU RE-RECORDED ACAB FOR THE LP, AND IT SOUNDS A LOT AGGIER THIS TIME ROUND. DID YOU PLAN THAT FOR A WHILE, OR WAS IT MORE OF A RESPONSE TO THE ALL THE PUBLIC INJUSTICE THAT WE'VE SEEN THIS YEAR?
YEAH THE PLAN WAS TO ALWAYS RE-RECORD ACAB AS WE FELT SEEING IT IS ONE OF TUNES THAT GETS A BIG REACTION AT SHOWS, IT WOULD BE A PERFECT TIME TO DO SO. IT DEFINITELY DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE UNREST DURING THE SUMMER. BUT I CAN SEE WHY SOME PEOPLE MAY THINK THAT.

IRONED OUT ARE KNOWN FOR HAVING A BIG GRIME VIBE, WHAT'S YOUR GO-TO RECORD OUTSIDE OF HARDCORE?
YOU'D HAVE TO SPEAK TO DAVE (OTHER VOCALIST) REGARDING GRIME. BUT FOR ME PERSONALLY I'D SAY TEN BY PEARL JAM, DIRT BY ALICE IN CHAINS AND GET SOME BY SNOT. I COULD LIST MORE BUT WE'D BE HERE ALL DAY.

HOW DOES HAVING TWO VOCALISTS AFFECT WRITING? DO YOU AND DAVE WRITE LYRICS TOGETHER, OR DOES ONE OF YOU TEND TO HANDLE IT ALL?
YEAH WE HAVE AN IDEA FOR SOME SONGS TOGETHER AND OTHER TUNES IT'S AN INDIVIDUAL THING WHERE ONE OF US WOULD WRITE ALL THE LYRICS OR WE ADD OUR OWN TO PARTS THAT IS RELEVANT TO THE SUBJECT AT HAND. FOR EXAMPLE THE SONG "OUR STRUGGLES DON'T MATTER" WAS A COLLABORATION EFFORT. ON ONE PART IT WAS PERSONAL ACCOUNT RELATING TO THE HARSHNESS OF GOVERNMENT CUTS AND THE OTHER WAS FROM A PERSPECTIVE OF WHAT WE READ AND HEAR ABOUT.

WE MET AT THE SWORN ENEMY SHOW LAST YEAR. IT WAS AT OLD BLUE LAST, AND I REMEMBER LAUGHING THAT ALL 6 OF YOU COULDN'T FIT ON THE STAGE HAHA. ON THE OTHER END OF THE SCALE, YOU'D RECENTLY DONE THE REBELLION TOUR WITH MADBALL, IRON REAGAN ETC. - DO YOU HAVE A PREFERENCE FOR PLAYING BIGGER OR SMALLER VENUES?
WE STILL STRUGGLE TO FIT ON STAGES ESPECIALLY WITH WEMA SWINGING HIS BASS GUITAR ALL OVER THE PLACE. PERSONALLY I LIKE THE SMALLER VENUES AS THEY ALWAYS MAKE FOR REALLY GREAT VIBES, ESPECIALLY WHEN PEOPLE CAN GET UP CLOSE AND SING ALONG. BIGGER VENUES WITH STAGES IS GREAT AND IT'S ALWAYS EXCITING TO SEE A HUGE CROWD SEEING WHAT YOU CAN DO. BOTH ARE GREAT BUT I MUCH PREFER SMALLER VENUES. HAVING SAID ALL THAT THE REBELLION TOUR WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE THAT I AM FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR. NOT MANY BANDS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SUCH A THING SO I APPRECIATED EVERY DAY THAT WE WERE ON THERE.

ANY PERSONAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM THAT TOUR? I WOULD FUCKIN LOVE TO SEE MADBALL EVERY DAY...
YEAH SEEING MADBALL EVERY NIGHT WAS DEFINITELY A TRIP. PERSONAL HIGHLIGHTS WERE BERLIN WHICH WAS SUCH A FUN NIGHT. I ALSO HAD ONE OF THE GREATEST DONER KEBABS TOO. OUR BUS GETTING RAIDED AT NIGHT BY SOME MEMBERS OF MADBALL, BORN FROM PAIN AND WEMA PLAYING SUSSUDIO BY PHIL COLLINS ON A SPEAKER. FINALLY, GETTING TO CHILL WITH SO MANY GOOD PEOPLE WHO ARE VETERANS IN THIS GAME ALONGSIDE NEWCOMERS LIKE MYSELF AND FEW OTHERS. IT WAS A GREAT TIME AND ONE I WILL NEVER FORGET.

OBVIOUSLY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE PLANS RIGHT NOW, BUT WILL YOU TOUR THE LP WHEN YOU CAN?
IF ITS SAFE TO DO SO THEN OF COURSE. WE'D BE SILLY NOT TO. PERSONALLY, I'D LOVE TO PLAY NOW BUT THE COVID RESPONSE TEAM ON FACEBOOK WOULD SHUT US DOWN HAHAHAHA. NAH IN ALL SERIOUSNESS THIS VIRUS IS REAL SO PLAYING NOW IS DEFINITELY OUT OF THE QUESTION. BUT ONCE IT'S COOL WE'LL DEFINITELY TOUR UK AND HOPEFULLY MAINLAND 100%.

PICK UP A COPY OF WE MOVE AS ONE HERE

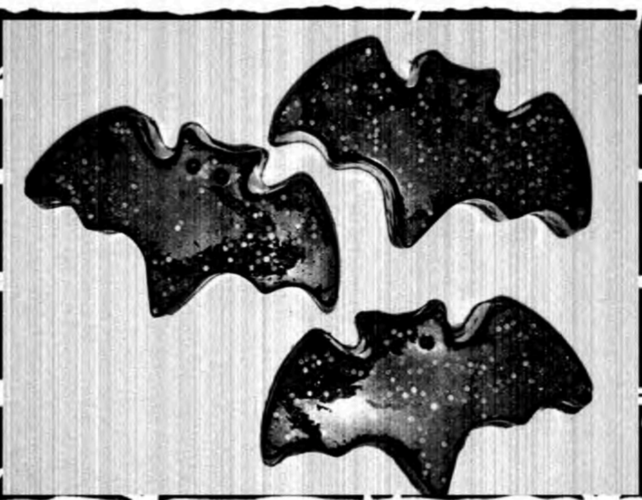
THANKS FOR TAKING THE TIME MATE, YOU GOT ANYTHING COOL COMING UP? ANYTHING YOU WANNA PROMOTE AT ALL?
YEAH CHECK OUT IRONED OUT ON FB, IG. WE HAVE MERCH FOR SALE ON OUR BIG CARTEL (WWW.IRONEDOUT.BIGCARTEL.COM) AND FOR OUR MUSIC WE'RE ON SPOTIFY, ITUNES AND ALL OTHER STREAMING SITES. MAINLAND CAN HEAD OVER TO WWW.GSRMUSIC.COM.

AS ALWAYS I LIKE TO HELP OUR LONDON FAMILY THAT IS RUCKTION RECORDS WHO WILL SOON BE RELEASING THE UPCOMING STREET SOLDIER EP. SIX BRAND NEW TRACKS AND ALSO AS BONUS ALL THEIR PREVIOUS RELEASES INCLUDED TOO. KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR THAT ONE.

THANK ALEC AND MENTALLY VEXED FANZINE. YOU'RE DOING A FANTASTIC JOB AT THE MOMENT GIVING SO MANY BANDS A SPACE TO LET THEMSELVES BE HEARD. KEEP IT UP!

PHOTOS BY ROMAN LARIS, @CALLXMEXKILLER & @RACHELL_PHOTO

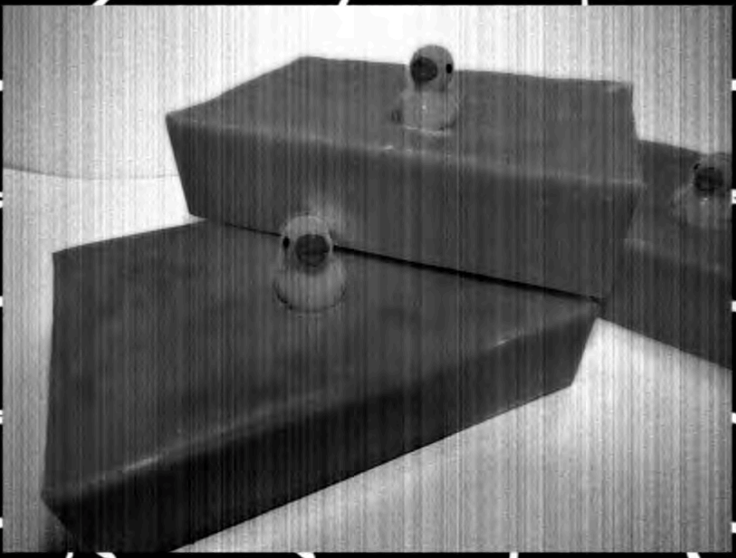
BUBBLE UP CO IS AN UP AND COMING BRAND SPECIALISING IN CRUELTY FREE WELL-BEING PRODUCTS. WHAT STARTED AS A "LOCKDOWN PROJECT" HAS QUICKLY TAKEN OFF AND BOSS LADY NIA TOOK TIME TO TELL US A BIT ABOUT THE BRAND, WHAT THEY DO AND WHAT THEY STAND FOR. EVERYTHING BUBBLE UP CO MAKES SMELLS INCREDIBLE, THIS STUFF IS REALLY WORTH CHECKING OUT.

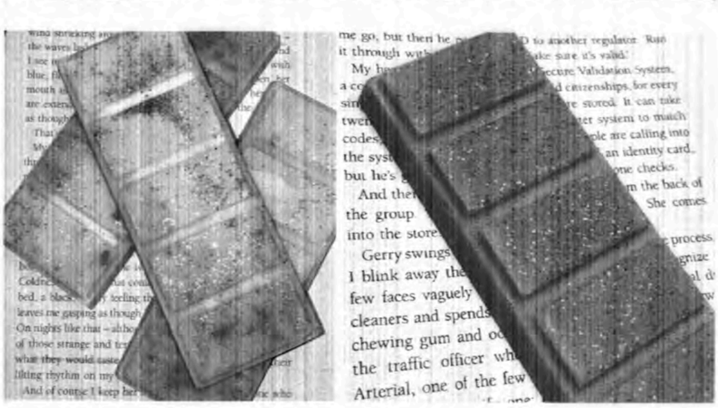


YO, HOW YOU DOING? CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT BUBBLE UP CO - WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU DO?
HEY! SO BUBBLEUPCO IS A BATH AND WELL-BEING PRODUCT BRAND THAT CREATES GORGEOUS SOAPS, WAX MELTS, BODY SCRUBS, MENTAL HEALTH OILS ETC THAT ARE ALL VEGAN AND CRUELTY FREE!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN MAKING SOAPS N STUFF?
I STARTED MY BRAND OCTOBER 2020 AND HADN'T BEEN MAKING BATH PRODUCTS FOR MORE THAN A WEEK BEFORE IT LAUNCHED! I WISH I HAD SOME INSPIRATIONAL STORY, BUT IT WAS SIMPLY A "IT'S LOCKDOWN AND I HAVE NOTHING TO DO SO LET'S GO SPEND MONEY ON A HOBBY THAT WON'T LAST MORE THAN TWO WEEKS." I POSTED A PICTURE ON TWITTER OF SOME SOAPS I HAD MADE AND HAD A BUNCH OF MY MUTUALS ASKING TO BUY THEM! FROM THERE, MY BOYFRIEND AND MUM HELPED ME CREATE THE BRAND I NOW HAVE.

CHECK OUT BUBBLE UP CO. HERE!





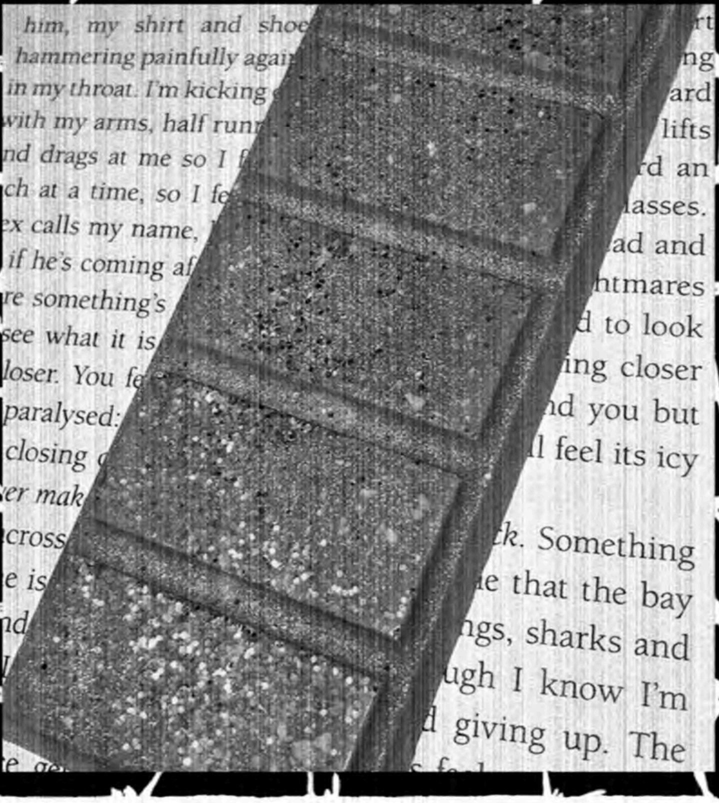
DID YOU TEACH YOURSELF HOW TO MAKE THIS STUFF? HOW DID YOU LEARN?
YOUTUBE WAS AN ABSOLUTE LIFE SAVER WHEN IT CAME TO LEARNING, ESPECIALLY FOR WAX MELTS. IT TOOK ME AROUND A MONTH JUST TO MASTER ADDING COLOURING AT THE RIGHT TEMPERATURE! THERE'S NOT MUCH TO LEARN FROM OTHER THAN VIDEOS WHEN IT COMES TO THIS KIND OF STUFF, SO I RELIED A LOT ON THEM AND ALSO INTERACTING WITH OTHER SMALL BUSINESSES WHO MAKE SIMILAR PRODUCTS.

WAS IT ALWAYS IMPORTANT TO YOU TO MAKE EVERYTHING VEGAN AND CRUELTY FREE?
THERE ARE SO MANY BATH AND BODY PRODUCT BRANDS WHO WORK WITH NON-VEGAN PRODUCTS AND/OR TEST ON ANIMALS – I WANTED TO MAKE SURE I WAS NEVER ONE OF THEM! I PUT A LOT OF TIME INTO FINDING VEGAN ALTERNATIVES FOR PRODUCTS SO THAT I CAN KEEP UP TO DATE WITH WHAT'S ON TREND, BUT STILL MAKE SURE THEY FIT THE VEGAN THEME OF MY BRANDING! I ALWAYS WANT MY PRODUCTS TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE.

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALWAYS PUSHING TO CREATE NEW THINGS, WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INSPIRATION FOR NEW PRODUCTS?
I TAKE A LOT OF INSPIRATION FROM MOVIES AND MUSIC! ONE OF MY BEST SELLERS IS A WAX MELT NAMED "ON WEDNESDAY'S WE WEAR PINK " WHICH IS BASED ON MEAN GIRLS AND THE HYPE THAT GOT WAS UNREAL. I'M WORKING ON MY HORROR COLLECTION CURRENTLY WHICH SHOULD BE OUT JUST BEFORE HALLOWEEN, BUT THIS WILL DEFINITELY BE THE BIGGEST ONE TO DATE (AND THE ONE I'M MOST PROUD OF.)

DO YOU HAVE TO EXPERIMENT A LOT TO PERFECT NEW STUFF? I BET IT GETS CRAZY MESSY.
MY ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD HAVE NOW COME TO THE REALISATION THAT YOU CANNOT WALK INTO MY BUSINESS AREA IN THE LIVING ROOM WITHOUT STANDING ON WAX, SOAP, DYE BOTTLES, MOULDS ETC. SOME PRODUCTS WORK FIRST TIME AND END UP LOOKING SICK, HOWEVER THERE ARE ONES THAT EVEN MONTHS LATER I JUST CAN'T GET THE HANG OF AND THE MESS THAT COMES FROM THOSE TAKES DAYS TO CLEAN UP!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE SCENT TO WORK WITH?
I ABSOLUTELY LOVE THE SWEET BASED ONES MOST AND HAVE FOUND THEY'RE ALWAYS POPULAR. THE PARMA VIOLET SCENTED WAX MELTS I RELEASED SOLD OUT IN JUST UNDER 4 HOURS IT WAS MAD! SOME ARE HARDER TO WORK WITH AS THEY HAVE A THICKER CONSISTENCY, SO IF I EVER RELEASE ANOTHER PRODUCT THAT'S COFFEE SCENTED JUST KNOW I HAD A BREAKDOWN MAKING IT.



"I PUT A LOT OF TIME INTO FINDING VEGAN ALTERNATIVES FOR PRODUCTS SO THAT I CAN KEEP UP TO DATE WITH WHAT'S ON TREND, BUT STILL MAKE SURE THEY FIT THE VEGAN THEME OF MY BRANDING! I ALWAYS WANT MY PRODUCTS TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE."

WHICH PRODUCT HAVE YOU FOUND THAT PEOPLE LOVE THE MOST? WHAT SORT OF FEEDBACK HAVE YOU HEARD?
WAX MELTS ARE DEFINITELY MY BEST SELLERS, FOLLOWED BY THE ANTI-ANXIETY OILS I'VE ONLY RECENTLY INTRODUCED. ONE THING I GET COMPLIMENTED ON A LOT IS HOW THE WAX MELTS SINCE IT LEAVES A POOL OF SHIMMERY COLOUR RATHER THAN JUST PURE COLOUR IF YOU GET WHAT I MEAN. IT LOOKS INSANELY PRETTY, ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE'S A MIX OF COLOURS.

AND WHAT'S YOUR PERSONAL HIGHLIGHT IN THE BUBBLE UP RANGE?
I ABSOLUTELY LOVE THE ANTI-ANXIETY OILS AND I WILL DEFINITELY BE LOOKING INTO MAKING MORE SELF CARE/MENTAL HEALTH INSPIRED PRODUCTS. EVERYTHING ABOUT IT IS SO PRETTY AND THE SMELL IS JUST HEAVENLY.

WHAT'S YOUR NEXT MOVE WITH BUBBLE UP CO?
I'M STILL WORKING ON A FEW PRODUCTS I JUST CAN'T GET MY HEAD AROUND (COUGH BATH BOMBS,) SO I'D LOVE TO HAVE THEM PERFECTED AND ON MY STORE BY THE END OF THE YEAR AT THE LATEST. OTHER THAN THAT, I'D LIKE TO JUST KEEP BRINGING OUT NEW PRODUCTS AND WHO KNOWS, MAYBE I'LL BE THE NEXT MINI LUSH STORE!

THANKS FOR DOING THIS! ANY SHOUTOUTS, OR ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY AT ALL?
THANK YOU!! JUST WANT TO SAY A HUGE THANK YOU TO MY BOYFRIEND CHARLIE AND MY MUM - I COULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT AND I'M SO THANKFUL FOR YOU BOTH.

CHECK OUT BUBBLE UP CO. ON ALL SOCIALS RIGHT NOW FOR HAND MADEVEGAN AND CRUELTY FREE SOAPS, WAX MELTS, ANXIETY OILS, AND SO MUCH MORE!

SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS

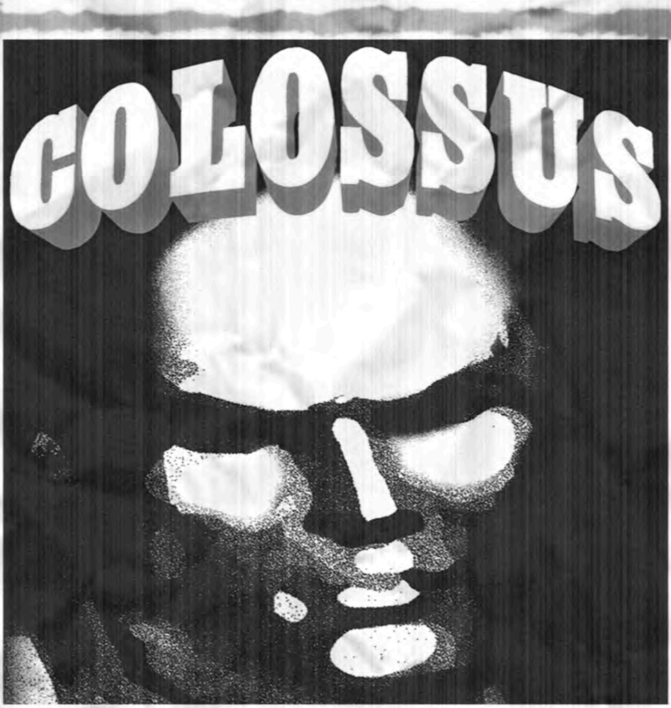
ENDS OF SANITY

ENDS OF SANITY

MVR011

HARD AS FUCK FIRST EP FROM MEMBERS OF MAGNITUDE, LIFE'S QUESTION, AND MORE. BIG RIFFS AND PUMMELING BEATS FFO EARLY HATEBREED & DEATH THREAT.

TAPES COMING SOON



COLOSSUS

MVR012

HARD-HITTING CONTEMPORARY HARDCORE RIFFS, FEATURING THE SOLID PIPES OF TOM INDECISION. ORIGINALLY RELEASED BY TRIPLE B, SO YOU KNOW IT'S GOOD.

TAPES COMING SOON

ORDEAL

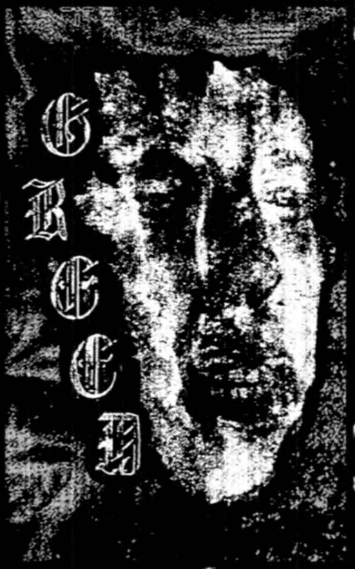
MVR013

BRAND NEW RELEASE FROM A BRAND NEW BAND OUT OF BIRMINGHAM, PLENTY OF TWO STEPS AND MOSH RIFFS. THESE GUYS ARE GONNA KILL IT WHEN THEY PLAY.

TAPES COMING SOON

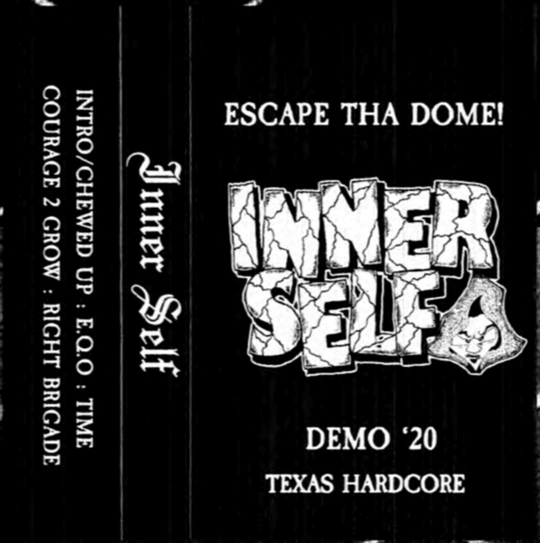
?

Death Clock Records Presents... Upcoming Releases



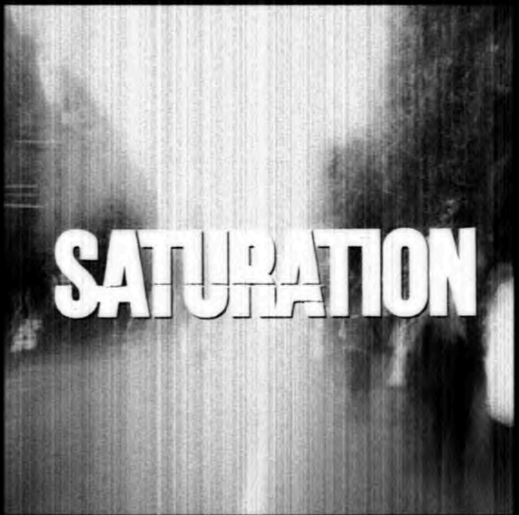
DCR011: Greed - The Purge of Earth

Leeds metallic hardcore, setting the bar for 2021
(DCR exclusive artwork)


ESCAPE THA DOME!
INNER SELF
DEMO '20
TEXAS HARDCORE
Inner Self
INTRO/CHEWED UP : E.O.O : TIME
COURAGE 2 GROW : RIGHT BRIGADE

DCR009: Inner Self - Demo '20

Old skool heavy hardcore from Texas


SATURATION

DCR010: Saturation - Demo 2020

French brutal metallic hardcore
in the vein of Kickback, Turmoil
and Grimlock

*all available on cassette

DEATH CLOCK RECORDS

SONNY AT DEATH CLOCK HAS BEEN DOING BITS THIS YEAR, WITH A RECENT RUN OF GREAT RELEASES FROM HARDCORE BANDS AROUND THE WORLD. THIS YOUNG G WILL BE RUNNING SHIT IN A FEW OF YEARS. KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR MORE STUFF FROM DEATH CLOCK RECORDS BEFORE THE END OF 2020.

YO WHAT'S UP SONNY! TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF, WHAT DO YOU DO, WHAT'S THE LABEL ALL ABOUT ETC?

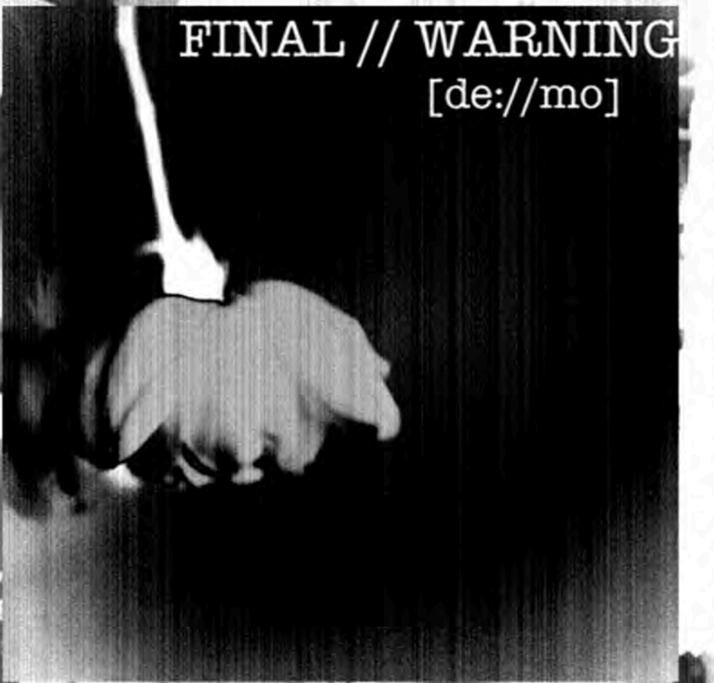
YO ALEC, I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU ASKING ME TO DO THIS HONESTLY. ITS OUT THERE NOW SO I'M 15, RUN A HARDCORE/METAL LABEL CALLED DEATH CLOCK RECORDS OUT OF SOUTH WALES, AS WELL AS A CARDIFF HARDCORE ARCHIVE PAGE WHEN I HAVE THE TIME. USED TO HAVE A BRAND BUT I'VE SORT OF LEFT THAT FOR THE FUTURE NOW.

WHEN DID YOU START DEATH CLOCK RECORDS? WHAT MADE YOU WANNA RUN A LABEL?

DCR STARTED IN JUNE/JULY 2019, I WAS SAT IN MUSIC CLASS AND AFTER LOOKING UP TO MY FRIENDS IN NFR AND CALLOUS RECORDS - I DECIDED TO DO IT MYSELF. IT WAS SUPER RANDOM, I LITERALLY MESSAGED DAN (CALLOUS) AND TOLD HIM MY IDEAS, AND WITHIN A WEEK OR SO THE LABEL CAME TO LIFE. IT WAS MAD AND I HAD NO CLUE WHAT I WAS DOING (STILL DON'T), BUT WITH ME BEING CREATIVE I FELT SUPER HAPPY TO BE DOING SOMETHING WITH MY TIME. I FEEL LIKE A LOT OF KIDS MY AGE JUST BUM AROUND TOWN, AND PLAY XBOX AND SHIT BUT THAT'S NOT REALLY MY THING AS I DON'T FEEL PRODUCTIVE. BESIDES THAT, MY LOVE FOR HARDCORE TO BE HONEST. I GOT INTO THIS GENRE AND WANTED EVERYTHING TO DO WITH IT, SO I'M GRATEFUL TO HOPEFULLY BE CONTRIBUTING IN SOME WAY.

HOW DID YOU PICK THE NAME?

THE NAME WAS RANDOM AND NOT SOMETHING I PUT A LOT OF THOUGHT INTO TO BE STRAIGHT UP HAHA. A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK IT'S A METALOCOLYPSE REFERENCE BUT I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN THAT SHOW, ALTHOUGH I'M GLAD PEOPLE CAN INTERPRET IT IN THEIR OWN WAY. I COULD'VE PICKED SOMETHING COOLER, BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY IT'S ABOUT THE MUSIC AND WHAT I'M ACTUALLY DOING.



CHECK OUT THE DEATH CLOCK RECORDS STORE HERE

WHAT WAS THE FIRST RELEASE? HOW DID IT GO?

THE FIRST RELEASE WAS FINAL WARNING - DEMO, THE REAL REASON THIS LABEL CAME TO BE. I SAW OLLIE POSTING THAT HIS BAND HAD SOMETHING COMING AROUND THE TIME I MADE THE LABEL, SO IT JUST CAME TO BE PRETTY EASILY. I ASKED HIM ABOUT TAPES, AND AFTER GOING BACK AND FORTH IN A GROUP CHAT WE MADE SOME SHIT HAPPEN. IT SOLD PRETTY GOOD, I DON'T DO ANYTHING IN LARGE QUANTITIES IN GENERAL TO KEEP THE EXCLUSIVITY AND TO AVOID LOOSING MONEY - SHIFTED MAYBE 15-17 COPIES WHICH I CAN'T COMPLAIN ABOUT. I FELT CRAZY AT THE TIME, I RAN TO SAINSBURY'S AS I DIDN'T HAVE DATA TO UPDATE THE STORE WHICH I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER. UNFORTUNATELY THEY WERE A SHORT LIVED GROUP BUT THE DEMO HOLDS A LOT OF VALUE TO ME, SO RIP FINAL WARNING.

ARE THERE ANY RELEASES THAT YOU ARE ESPECIALLY PROUD OF?

I'M PROUD OF EVERY RELEASE FOR REAL, THE LABEL WAS SLOW MOVING IN THE FIRST YEAR SO ANYONE WHO WAS DOWN TO WORK ON TAPES I HAVE TO THANK. MY FAVOURITE HAS PROBABLY BEEN SHACKLED THOUGH, I'VE MADE SOME SOLID FRIENDS OVERSEAS AND I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT THEY COME UP WITH NEXT. A GOOD EXPERIENCE IS MEMORABLE TO ME, SO I'D HAVE TO GO WITH THAT.

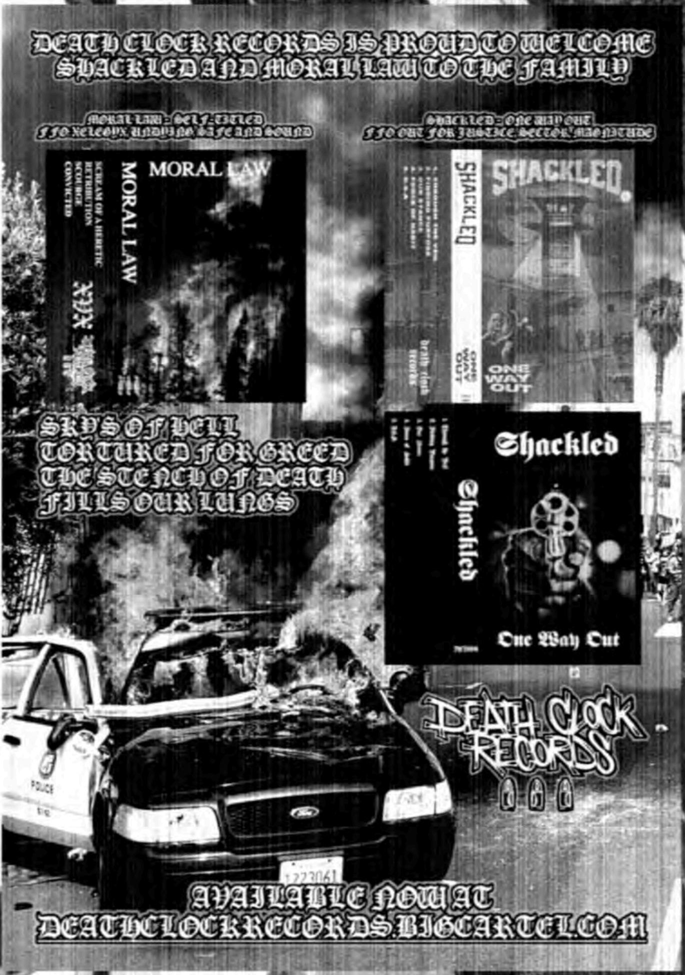
YOU RECENTLY DID TAPES FOR SHACKLED AND MORAL LAW, BOTH RELEASES WERE GREAT. HOW WELL WERE THE TAPES RECEIVED?

THANKS HOMIE, MEANS A LOT. SHACKLED STANDARD COVER SOLD OUT IN A COUPLE DAYS, WITH THE OTHERS NOT FAR OFF. A DOUBLE RELEASE IS SUPER STRESSFUL BUT AS I SAID ABOVE, IT'S BEEN A DOPE EXPERIENCE. I'VE GAINED A TON OF NEW FOLLOWERS AND BUYERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, WHICH I'M SO STOKED ABOUT. IT WAS THE POINT OF GOOD THINGS TO COME FOR THIS LABEL IN MY EYES.

IF YOU COULD PICK ANY BAND TO RELEASE, WHO YOU GOIN WITH?
JEEZ, ANY BAND? I'LL GIVE YOU A COUPLE, MY TASTE IN MUSIC IS PRETTY DIVERSE SO THERE'S DEFINITELY A GOOD FEW CHOICES. FIRSTLY, I'D DO A RE-RELEASE OF MYSTIC STYLEZ BY THREE 6 MAFIA. THOSE GUYS STARTED OFF WITH CASSETTES, THE SAME WHY I DID AND HAVE ALWAYS HAD A CONNECTION TO THE UNDERGROUND, THEREFORE IT'D SUIT THE LABEL VERY WELL IN MY OPINION. PLUS IT'S JUST FUCKING EVIL AFTER THAT, I WOULD LOVE TO DO A VINYL RELEASE FOR BROKEN TIES... SPOKEN LIES BY SHATTERED REALM. GOAT RECORD, IT'S JUST HARD AS FUCK. PLUS I RECKON PEOPLE WOULD BUY IT AND FINALLY, A RELEASE WITH TURNOVER WOULD BE FUN. ONE DAY I'D LIKE TO BRANCH OUT INTO SOME OTHER GENRES, AND THEY'D BE A FIRST CHOICE IF I EVER GOT THE CHANCE.

HOW DO YOU FIT IT ALL IN AROUND SCHOOL ETC.?
MAN, FITTING IT AROUND SCHOOL CAN BE PRETTY HARD. THIS IS DEFINITELY A BIG REASON WHY THE LABEL MOVED VERY SLOWLY IN THE BEGINNING, I OBVIOUSLY DON'T EARN MONEY EITHER. I STRESS MYSELF OUT A LOT BECAUSE I ABSOLUTELY DESPISE GOING THERE, SO WITH THE LABEL ON TOP I FEEL LIKE I'M NOT GETTING ENOUGH TIME TO DO WHAT I ENJOY. I ALWAYS PROCRASTINATE TOO, SO AS SOON AS WORK POPS UP I INSTANTLY JUST PUT WHATEVER I'M DOING DOWN. HENCE WHY I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO COLLEGE, I THINK I'LL HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO PUT 100% INTO DCR. I TRY MY BEST THOUGH, AND I'VE GOTTEN THIS FAR SO IT'S ALL GOOD! IT'S CORNY BUT FUCK EVERY TEACHER THERE.

I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN WORKING AWAY ON THE ZINE FOR A WHILE NOW, AND (INSIDER INFO) I KNOW THERE'S SOME FUCKING DOPE INTERVIEWS IN THERE. WHEN CAN WE EXPECT TO SEE IT?
HELL YEAH. IT'S TAKING SOME TIME FOR REAL, MOSTLY BECAUSE I STARTED LEARNING THE SOFTWARE WHILST CREATING THE ZINE. SO I'M SORTA LEARNING AS I GO, FOR THIS REASON I RESTARTED QUITE A BIT AND WENT FOR THE CUT AND PASTE LOOK. I'M PRAYING FOR DECEMBER, BUT WITH MY LUCK IT COULD BE JANUARY. I HOPE EVERYONE ENJOYS IT BECAUSE I'M SUPER PROUD OF IT AND THE INTERVIEWS I'VE GOT INSIDE.


DEATH CLOCK RECORDS IS PROUD TO WELCOME
SHACKLED AND MORAL LAW TO THE FAMILY

MORAL LAW - SELF-TITLED
FFO XELEOYX, UNDYING, SAFE AND SOUND

SHACKLED - ONE WAY OUT
FFO OUT FOR JUSTICE, SECTOR, MAGNITUDE

SKYS OF HELL
TORTURED FOR GREED
THE STENCH OF DEATH
FILLS OUR LUNGS

DEATH CLOCK RECORDS

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YOU'RE A BIG DEATH METAL HEAD, ANY DM RECOMMENDATIONS?
GREEBO FOR LIFE, ONE DAY WE CAN FINALLY NERD OUT ABOUT IT. START WITH THE CLASSICS, BANDS SUCH AS CRYPTOPSY, SUFFOCATION AND CANNIBAL CORPSE. SOME SICK RECORDS I RECOMMEND WOULD BE: TORTURE RACK - MALEFIC HUMILIATION, BLOOD INCANTATION - HIDDEN HISTORIES OF THE HUMAN RACE, INTERNAL BLEEDING - DRIVEN TO CONQUER AND ROTTED - PESTILENT DOOM. MORE DEATH METAL HARDCORE BANDS PLEASE

WHAT'S NEXT FOR DCR?
I'VE GOT SOME NEW SHIT COMING IN THE NEW YEAR. FOR THE END OF THIS YEAR, I'LL BE DROPPING TWO MORE TAPES ALONGSIDE THE KRAYNIUM RE RELEASE AND A ZINE. AFTER CHRISTMAS I'VE GOT SOME NEW MERCH AND TOTE BAGS, WITH MORE ZINE ISSUES AND TAPES. GONNA TRY MAKE NEXT YEAR THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE FOR DCR, MAD LOVE FOR EVERYONE WHO IS SUPPORTING THIS LABEL.

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME MAN, ANYTHING YOU WANNA SAY?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME TOO MAN, I REALLY AM GRATEFUL FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY AS I LOVE TALKING ABOUT HARDCORE. THIS IS MY FIRST INTERVIEW AND I'M SO GASSED ABOUT IT. GRAFTING GETS RESULTS, I STARTED THIS LABEL AT 14, YOU KNOW? IF YOU TRY YOUR BEST YOU CAN DO COOL THINGS. DON'T SELL OUT, RESPECT OTHERS, HAVE FUN, TAKE NO SHIT AND SHARE HARDCORE WITH YOUR MATES WHO DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT. SHOUTOUT TO: SHACKLED, WRETCHED RECORDS, MENTALLY VEXED RECORDS, NUCLEAR FAMILY RECORDS, THE COMING STRIFE, RUCKTION RECORDS, ALEC DAVIES, NORTHERN UNREST/GLASGOW HARDCORE, READY EYE COLLECTIVE, MALIGNANT METHODS, GAVIN AND STACEY DVD BOXSETS AND ALL MY FRIENDS. SPREAD DA METALCORE

"I GOT INTO THIS GENRE AND WANTED EVERYTHING TO DO WITH IT, SO I'M GRATEFUL TO HOPEFULLY BE CONTRIBUTING IN SOME WAY"

D C R

POINT OF CONTACT

MEET POINT OF CONTACT.
THESE GUYS BRING THE FLORIDIAN STRAIGHTEDGE FURY
WITH BIG RIFFS AND THE HARDEST HITTING BREAKDOWNS. THEIR LATEST RECORD
COMMITMENT (PLEAD YOUR CASE RECORDS) IS 8 SONGS OF PIT FUELLING HARDCORE, CLOCKING
IN AT 18 MINS - NO FUCKING AROUND. BIG THANKS TO GARRETT STROBEL FOR DOING THIS INTERVIEW.

HEY GARRETT, THANKS FOR DOING THIS WITH ME. HOW YOU DOING?
WHAT UP ALEC. I'M STARTING TO WRITE THIS UP AT 10:30 AM, WHICH IS WHEN MY WORK DAY STARTS, SO I'M HAVING SOME EARL GREY AND HANGING WITH MY DOG TO GET THE DAY GOING.

HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO ANYTHING COOL DURING THE PANDEMIC? IT SEEMS LIKE YOU HAVE THE SAME SITUATION IN THE STATES AS WE DO HERE, WHERE NOBODY REALLY KNOWS THE "RULES" OR WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON HAHA.
PERSONALLY, THE COOLEST THING I HAVE DONE WAS GET MARRIED. WE'D BEEN PLANNING IT BEFORE THINGS GOT OUT OF HAND, AND WE HAD TO MAKE SOME PRETTY DRASTIC CHANGES TO KEEP EVERYONE SAFE, BUT IT WAS STILL THE PERFECT DAY, EVEN WITH LESS PEOPLE THAN PLANNED. A FEW MONTHS AFTER THAT, ALL OF POINT OF CONTACT PLUS STEPH, RUSSELL, SEAN, AND CONNOR (HALF OF MAGNITUDE) WENT CAMPING AND HIKING IN PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST IN NORTH CAROLINA. MANY OF US WERE CAMPING FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, AND NOW A LOT OF US ARE HOOKED.

HOW DID POINT OF CONTACT START? DID YOU GUYS SAY "LET'S START A STRAIGHTEDGE BAND" OR WAS IT AN EVOLUTION OF SOMETHING ELSE?
WE ALWAYS INTENDED TO BE A STRAIGHT EDGE BAND. ME AND JOSE HAD BEEN TALKING ABOUT STARTING A BAND OFF AND ON FOR YEARS. I HIT UP EVERYONE INDIVIDUALLY AND PITCHED THEM THE IDEA... "STRAIGHT EDGE, INFLUENCED BY HATEBREED AND THROWDOWN, WITH THESE MEMBERS" AND EVERYONE WAS DOWN. I THINK IT SOUNDS PRETTY DIFFERENT FROM THAT NOW, BUT THAT'S WHAT GOT EVERYONE ON BOARD.

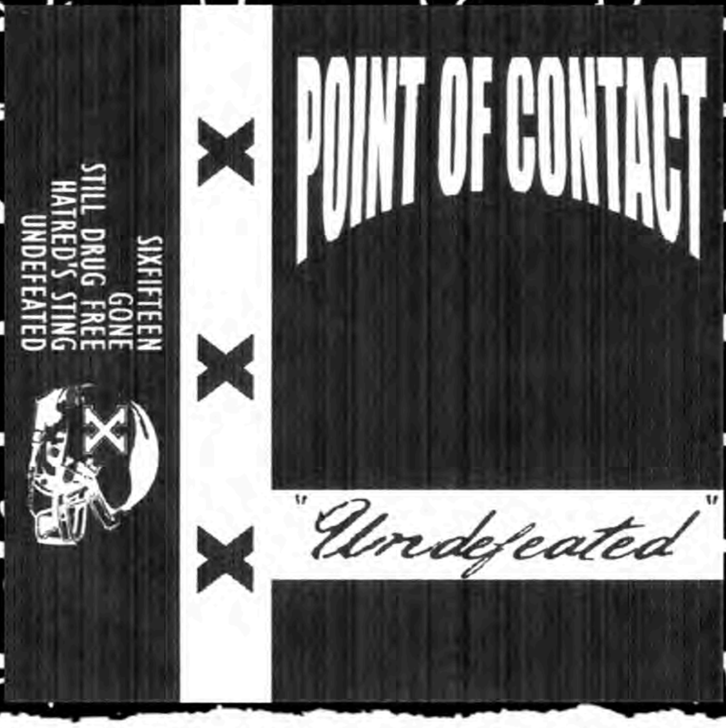
AS AN OUTSIDER, IT SEEMS LIKE THE FLORIDA SCENE HAS BEEN REALLY STRONG FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS. HAD YOU GUYS BEEN IN OTHER BANDS BEFORE?
YES, WE HAD ALL PLAYED IN BANDS THAT MOSTLY PLAYED LOCALLY. AS FAR AS BANDS THAT TOURED, I PLAYED GUITAR IN A HARDCORE PUNK BAND CALLED SICK OF TALK, AND JOSH TOURED A LITTLE WITH A METALLIC BAND CALLED RAMSES. BOTH OF THOSE BANDS ARE NO MORE, BUT THAT'S WHAT WE DID PRIOR TO NOW. WE BOTH HAVE A FEW TRICKS UP OUR SLEEVE, CURRENTLY... I PLAY IN DIFFUSE, FINAL SAY, AND A NEW BAND CALLED YIELD TO NONE, AND JOSH DOES ANOTHER STRAIGHT EDGE BAND, CONTENTION.

TALKING ABOUT FLORIDA'S SCENE ALMOST FEELS LIKE A DISTANT TOPIC NOW THAT THERE'S NO SHOWS, AND MOST EVERYONE HERE PRETTY MUCH AGREES THAT RELEASING MUSIC RIGHT NOW WOULD BE A WASH. WHEN HARDCORE GETS BACK ON IT'S FEET, THOUGH, FLORIDA IS GOING TO HAVE AN UNREAL AMOUNT OF MUSIC COMING OUT, SO YEAH, "STRONG" IS AN IDEAL DESCRIPTOR.

I USUALLY DO SOME RESEARCH BEFORE I WRITE THESE INTERVIEWS, BUT IT'S PRETTY HARD TO FIND ANYTHING ON POINT OF CONTACT! THERE'S THE BANDCAMP, A FEW VIDEOS AND INTERVIEWS, BUT (AND CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG) NO SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE - WAS THAT A CONSCIOUS CHOICE?
YOU'RE CORRECT, WE DON'T HAVE ANY. THAT'S JUST NEVER SOMETHING WE'VE REALLY DONE WITH ANY OF OUR BANDS. ANYTHING IMPORTANT WE HAVE TO SAY, WE DO AT THE SHOWS, OR IN ZINES LIKE THIS ONE, SO SOCIAL MEDIA WOULD BE A MOOT POINT FOR US. I THINK LABELS HAVING AN ONLINE PRESENCE MAKES SENSE, BECAUSE SELLING RECORDS ONLINE WORKS OUT WELL. PLEAD YOUR CASE RECORDS WOULD BE THE GO-TO FOR POINT OF CONTACT UPDATES IN THAT DEPARTMENT. UNPLUG AND ASCEND...

THERE'S A HATE5SIX VIDEO WHERE VOCALIST JOSE HAS HIS LEG ALL STRAPPED UP. I DON'T WANNA GET INTO HIS BUSINESS, BUT RESPECT TO HIM FOR GETTING UP THERE STILL. HAVE ANY OF YOU EVER GOTTEN HURT BADLY AT SHOWS?
HAHAHA, YEAH JOSE TOOK A BEATING (WHICH HE GAVE HIMSELF) DURING MAGNITUDE AT THE COMMITMENT RECORD RELEASE. HE WAS JUST GOING BANANAS MOSHING AND PAID THE ULTIMATE PRICE - SELF-INJURY. IF YOU WATCH THE VIDEO FOR OUR SET, YOU CAN SEE HE'S USING A MIC STAND AS A CRUTCH, PRETTY MUCH. HE'D JUST WRECKED HIS KNEE MINUTES BEFORE WE PLAYED AND WAS IN AGONIZING PAIN. AS SOON AS THE SHOW WRAPPED UP, HE RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL. ON TOP OF THAT, WE ALREADY HAD THE SHOWS LINED UP FOR THAT FOLLOWING WEEKEND, SO WE PLAYED PHILLY (THE VIDEO YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT), BIRMINGHAM, AND ATLANTA WITH HIM IN A COMICALLY OVERSIZED KNEE BRACE. HE ENDED UP NEEDING SURGERY AND TOOK SOME TIME TO RECOVER, BUT THANKFULLY WE WERE ABLE TO STILL PULL OFF PLAYING FYA WITH HIM WEARING A MUCH LESS COMPROMISING BRACE.

THAT VIDEO REALLY SAID SOMETHING TO ME ABOUT HOW UNRELENTING AND UNCOMPROMISING POINT OF CONTACT IS. WOULD YOU USE THOSE WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE BAND? DO YOU THINK THOSE ARE IMPORTANT TRAITS TO HAVE?
UNRELENTING, UNCOMPROMISING... SOME MAY SAY... "UNDEFEATED"



IN TERMS OF ARTWORK, I REALLY DIG THE MINIMALISTIC VIBE ON BOTH UNDEFEATED AND COMMITMENT. WERE THERE ANY RECORDS OR ARTISTS IN PARTICULAR THAT INFLUENCED THEM?
AS FAR AS UNDEFEATED, WE WERE ON A FOOTBALL KICK, WHICH EXPLAINS THE HELMET WITH THE X ON THE SIDE. IF YOU PICKED UP THE I HATE I SKATE VERSION OF THE TAPE, WE ALSO HAD A PHOTO IN THE INSERT OF LEGARRETTE BLOUNT ("THE TRAIN") WHEN HE WAS PLAYING FOR THE TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS, TOTALLY WRECKING SOME OTHER PLAYER. WE PARTED WAYS FROM THE SPORTS LOOK AFTER THAT, BECAUSE WE DIDN'T WANT TO GET PIGEONHOLED AS, LIKE, A TEN YARD FIGHT RIP-OFF VISUALLY, EVEN THOUGH THEY RULE AND SOUND WILDLY DIFFERENT. THE MAIN THING WITH COMMITMENT WAS WANTING A RANDOM TO BE ABLE TO PICK UP THE RECORD AND SEE RIGHT AWAY THAT IT'S A STRAIGHT EDGE BAND. THAT'S WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT OUR FAVORITE STRAIGHT EDGE RECORD COVERS, SO THAT'S WHAT WE DID. THE BACK COVER IS ALMOST THE EXACT LAYOUT OF MY FAVORITE OCHC RECORD EVER... WHICH WON'T BE HARD TO GUESS IF YOU READ THE REST OF THE INTERVIEW

> *"THE MAIN THING WITH COMMITMENT WAS WANTING A RANDOM TO BE ABLE TO PICK UP THE RECORD AND SEE RIGHT AWAY THAT IT'S A STRAIGHT EDGE BAND. THAT'S WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT OUR FAVORITE STRAIGHT EDGE RECORD COVERS, SO THAT'S WHAT WE DID."*

WITH COMMITMENT, DID YOU GUYS ALREADY HAVE THE RELATIONSHIP WITH PLEAD YOUR CASE, OR DID THEY PICK IT UP AFTER IT WAS RECORDED?
I'VE KNOWN LENNON, WHO RUNS PLEAD YOUR CASE RECORDS, FOR YEARS. WE WENT TO COLLEGE AT USF TOGETHER FOR SOME TIME, YEARS BEFORE POINT OF CONTACT WAS EVEN AN IDEA, WHICH IS WHEN WE REALLY BECAME FRIENDS AND TALKED CORE EVERY DAY. ANYONE WHO HAS EVER BEEN IN A CAR WITH LENNON KNOWS WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT... HE PUT ME ON TO A LOT OF BANDS JUST BY PUTTING THEM ON WHILE WE WERE DRIVING AROUND, LIKE STRAIN, CONVICTION, AND A MUCH APPRECIATED RE-LISTEN TO YOUTH OF TODAY (WHY I WAS EVER BRIEFLY NOT IN TO YOUTH OF TODAY ESCAPES ME, WAS I BRAIN DEAD?)

FAST FORWARD A FEW YEARS, I WAS HELPING LENNON WITH THE PLEAD YOUR CASE HERE AND THERE. I MAINTAINED THE WEBSITE, WHEN THERE WAS ONE, HELPED GET THE RECORDS IN SOME BRICK-AND-MORTAR RECORD STORES... JUST GENERAL LABEL HOUSEKEEPING. WE HAD ALSO TEAMED UP TO PUT OUT THE SEARCH FOR PURPOSE LP, SO WE KNEW WHAT WORKING WITH EACH OTHER TO PUT OUT A RECORD WOULD BE LIKE. WHEN WE PLAYED MIAMI IN SEPTEMBER OF 2018, HE SAW US AND WAS ALL IN; HE WAS REALLY AMPED ON THE IDEA OF DOING A RECORD FOR US. I SHOWED HIM THE FINISHED PRODUCT - FITTINGLY - IN HIS CAR, ON THE FIRST DATE OF THE POINT OF CONTACT AND MAGNITUDE TOUR IN JUNE OF 2019, THEN THE RECORD CAME OUT IN AUGUST.

POINT OF P·O·C CONTACT POINT OF P·O·C CONTACT POINT OF P·O·C CONTACT

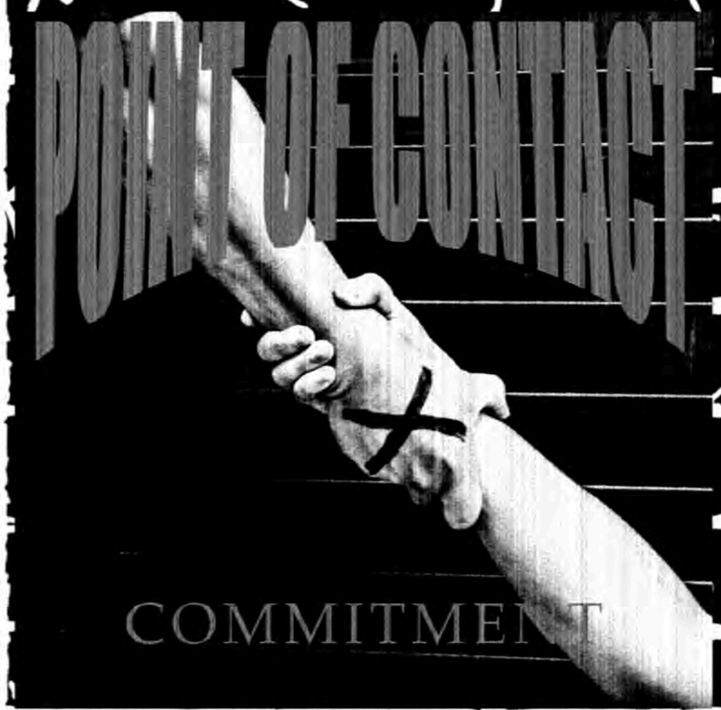
LISTEN TO COMMITMENT HERE

ARE WE LIKELY TO SEE ANOTHER POINT OF CONTACT RECORD ANY TIME SOON?
WE ARE NOT PUTTING OUT ANY NEW MUSIC UNTIL WE CAN PLAY IT LIVE, BUT WE ARE WORKING ON A SECOND FULL LENGTH RECORD. WE HAD THIS PRACTICE UNIT FOR A BIT, BUT WE WERE SORT OF FORCING OURSELVES TO BE THERE, AND WITHOUT HAVING SHOWS TO BREAK UP THE MONOTONY OF PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE... IT JUST WASN'T WORKING FOR US. IT WASN'T HOW WE WROTE COMMITMENT, WHICH WAS VERY ORGANIC. WE WERE CONSTANTLY SHOWING EACH OTHER RIFFS WHEN ME, MATT AND JOSH LIVED TOGETHER. WE'VE JUST SHIFTED GEARS AND ARE WRITING AT A DIFFERENT PACE NOW.

HERE ARE SOME THINGS WE'VE BEEN LISTENING TO - NOT THAT THE NEW RECORD WILL SOUND LIKE THESE AT ALL, BUT INSPIRATION...

AGAINST THE WALL - IDENTIFY ME 7" 1989
COMMITTED - CLEVELAND STRAIGHT EDGE DEMO 1998
DISRUPT - SMASH DIVISIONS 7" 1992
FAKE EYES - A DRIP IS ALL WE KNOW 2020
HATEBREED - OZZFEST COMPLETE SHOW (CAMDEN, NJ) JULY 1, 2001
NINA SIMONE - TO LOVE SOMEBODY (LIVE IN ANTIBES) JULY 28, 1969
THICK AS BLOOD - MOMENT OF TRUTH 2007
YOU AND I - YOU AND I 7" 1997
YOUTH OF TODAY - DISENGAGE 7" 1990

TOURING AROUND AND PLAYING THE SONGS FROM COMMITMENT IS PRIORITY NUMBER ONE OVER WRITING THE SECOND RECORD. WE WANT TO TOUR THIS RECORD IN THE US - AND HOPEFULLY THE UK, TOO!



DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU FIRST HEARD THE TERM "STRAIGHT-EDGE"? WHEN DID YOU CLAIM? WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?
BEING STRAIGHT EDGE IS INARGUABLY THE COOLEST THING EVER. I HAVE BEEN STRAIGHT EDGE SINCE I HEARD ABOUT IT, SO PROBABLY 8TH OR 9TH GRADE. AT THIS POINT IN MY LIFE, IT JUST MEANS LIVING THE WAY I ALWAYS HAVE.

THERE'S ALWAYS GONNA BE KIDS THAT CLAIM, AND INSTANTLY THINK THEY HAVE TO PUT UP A TOUGH-GUY FRONT, FALL OUT WITH FRIENDS FAMILY ETC. THAT STILL DRINK OR WHATEVER. WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS? ANY ADVICE TO YOUNGER HEADS JUST STARTING TO GET INTO IT ALL?
I DON'T SEE THAT SO MUCH AS A PROBLEM WHERE WE ARE. ONE, BECAUSE NO ONE IS CLAIMING EDGE ANYMORE. TWO, BECAUSE WE ALL PRETTY MUCH GET ALONG WITH OUR FRIENDS WHO DRINK AND SMOKE OR WHATEVER. IT'S THEIR LIFE. THE ONLY ADVICE I CAN THINK WOULD BE... IF YOU'RE JUST DELVING IN TO STRAIGHT EDGE AND YOU MAKE IT YOUR WHOLE PERSONALITY, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE SOME SERIOUS EGG ON YOUR FACE IF AND WHEN YOU SELL OUT. TWO GUARANTEED WAYS OF AVOIDING THAT: DON'T BE STUCK UP ABOUT YOUR EDGE, OR DON'T SELL OUT. NOT MANY TAKE THE SECOND ROAD LESS TRAVELLED.

"WE HAD THIS PRACTICE UNIT FOR A BIT, BUT WE WERE SORT OF FORCING OURSELVES TO BE THERE, AND WITHOUT HAVING SHOWS TO BREAK UP THE MONOTONY OF PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE... IT JUST WASN'T WORKING FOR US. IT WASN'T HOW WE WROTE COMMITMENT, WHICH WAS VERY ORGANIC."

WHAT'S YOUR "DESERT ISLAND STRAIGHTEDGE RECORD"?

UNIFORM CHOICE - SCREAMING FOR CHANGE ALL THE WAY. "I DON'T NEED DRUGS, I DON'T NEED A CRUTCH - MY MIND IS ALL I'LL EVER NEED TO STAY IN TOUCH!"

LAST ONE - WHAT'S YOUR DREAM LINEUP FOR YOUR FIRST SHOW BACK AFTER THE WORLD GOES BACK TO NORMAL?

WE WERE SUPPOSED TO PLAY UNITED BLOOD WHICH HAD US, THREE KNEE DEEP, DOMINANT FORCE AND BE ALL END ALL, WHICH WE WERE REALLY EXCITED ABOUT BECAUSE THAT COVERS ALMOST EVERY SCENE IN FLORIDA. ME AND JOSE WERE TALKING ABOUT DOING A SHOW OF THE NEW TAMPA BANDS BEFORE EVERYTHING WENT DOWN, SO IT WOULD BE COOL TO SEE THAT - US, INFLICT, YIELD TO NONE, CONTENTION. WE WERE ALSO TOYING WITH THE IDEA OF BRINGING UP DAY BY DAY, THEN BRINGING DOWN FIGURE, AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, SEARCH FOR PURPOSE FOR A TAMPA SHOW. WE'D DEFINITELY PLAY WITH JUDGE IN AN APPROPRIATELY SIZED VENUE (THEY PLAYED THE ORPHEUM NOT TOO LONG AGO AND IT MIGHT AS WELL HAVE BEEN AT THE MIDFLORIDA CREDIT UNION AMPHITHEATRE). WE WANT TO TOUR WITH APSARA, BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO PLAN ANYTHING RIGHT NOW. ANY SHOW HAPPENING FEELS LIKE A DREAM RIGHT NOW. I'D GO WATCH A LIVE PERFORMANCE OF THE RAY & PORCELL 7" FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD.

THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME MAN, ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY?

THANKS FOR FEATURING US IN MENTALLY VEXED. DOING A ZINE CAN BE A REAL THANKLESS EFFORT. IT'S ONE OF THE FEW WAYS PEOPLE CAN STAY CONNECTED TO REAL MUSIC OF A SOMEWHAT UPROOTED, BUT STILL MOSTLY UNDERGROUND, CULTURE. ESPECIALLY NOW, IT'S A WAY TO BE A PART OF HARDCORE WHILE THERE ARE NO SHOWS. MUCH APPRECIATED ON THAT.

ON ONE LAST NOTE: HERE IN THE US, WE HAVE A NEW PRESIDENT-ELECT - BUT THAT BY NO MEANS ERASES ANY OF THE PROBLEMS WE ARE FACING, OR THE FACT THAT POLITICIANS ON BOTH SIDES ARE PURE-EVIL-FOR-HIRE. EVERYWHERE, WE MUST CONTINUE TO FIGHT AGAINST THE MASSIVE AND BROKEN SYSTEM OF PAIN.

I ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO MAKE AN EFFORT. STOP GIVING MONEY TO GIANT COMPANIES THAT KEEP LOW INCOME PEOPLE OPPRESSED LIKE AMAZON, WALMART AND MCDONALDS, IF YOU CAN. THEY SUCK. TRY AND SPEND MORE TIME IN THE COMMUNITY, WHETHER THAT MEANS DISTRIBUTING FOOD TO THOSE WHO NEED IT, BEING AT ORGANIZED PROTESTS, OR GIVING MONEY TO ORGANIZATIONS YOU TRUST THAT HELP PEOPLE WHO THE LARGER SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO FAIL. RIGHT NOW IS A REALLY HARD TIME FOR PEOPLE GOING THROUGH TREATMENT OR TRYING TO GET OFF DRUGS, BECAUSE IT'S A CHEAP AND ACCESSIBLE WAY TO COPE WITH THE STRESSES OF LIFE. CONSIDER DONATING TO YOUR LOCAL IMPATIENT FACILITIES OR OUTPATIENT PROGRAMS THAT HELP KEEP PEOPLE SOBER.

"I PUT FORTH AN EFFORT IN A TIME OF HATE AND GREED; NOW WE MUST REALIZE, TOGETHERNESS IS WHAT WE NEED!"

PHOTOS BY JEFF LASICH, SAM SILVA, SOFIA DANIELLE

MALIGNANT METHODS ARE BRINGING THE 2002 BEATDOWN BACK, WITH GROOVE-LADEN RIFFS & HARSH DOUBLE KICKS. THIS BAND FEATURES MEMBERS OF VENT, CLIMATE OF FEAR & LAST WISHES - CHECK EM OUT!

MALIGNANT METHODS

WHAT'S UP ALFIE, HOW YOU DOING? KEEPING BUSY?
WHAT'S UP, I'M DOING WELL, KEEPING MY HEAD AFLOAT DURING LOCKDOWN PART 6 OR SOMETHING. I'VE LOST COUNT AT THIS POINT

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING ON THIS PROJECT? I HEARD YOU LONGED IT OUT FOR A WHILE HAHA
IT STARTED DURING THE FIRST LOCKDOWN. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO START A BAND ON VOCALS FOR THE PAST 2 YEARS BUT FINALLY CRACKED DOWN ON IT TO GIVE ME SOMETHING TO DO DURING THE FIRST LOCKDOWN, THEN WHEN I WAS WRITING THE FIRST SONG WHICH IS NOW CALLED "SIX FEET UNDER" IT SORT OF CLICKED WITH ME AND I KNEW THIS WOULD BE THE ONE. I WROTE THE SONGS, GOT EVERYTHING RECORDED BUT THEN WHEN IT CAME TO THE VOCALS I FELL OF IT FOR A BIT, A BIT MEANING 5 OR 6 MONTHS BUT I EVENTUALLY SORTED MYSELF OUT AND GOT IN THE STUDIO AND DONE THE VOCALS AND PUT IT OUT LIKE A WEEK OR TWO LATER.

WHERE DID THE NAME COME FROM?
I WAS WATCHING SOPRANOS AND THERE'S A CHARACTER CALLED PAULIE AND AT ONE POINT I HEARD HIM SAY THE LINE: "SHE'S A MALIGNANT CUNT" AND RIGHT THERE AND THEN CAME THE NAME, MALIGNANT METHODS

DID YOU WRITE THE TRACKS AS A BAND, OR WERE YOU LIKE THE MASTERMIND BEHIND IT? CAN YOU TALK ABOUT THE WRITING PROCESS AT ALL?
I WROTE THE SONGS AND GOT PEOPLE IN A BAND AFTER I WROTE AL;L THE SONGS. WE WILL PROBABLY START WRITING AS A BAND FROM NOW ON BUT WITH LOCKDOWN, IT MAKES IT DIFFICULT.

WHAT WERE YOU LISTENING TO WHEN YOU WROTE THE EP?
A LOT OF SPECIAL MOVE AND BEATDOWN FURY. THAT SORT OF CHOKED PALM-MUTED MOSH PARTS AND FAST RIFF SOUND IS HONESTLY MY SHIT. CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF IT AND THAT SOUNDS NOT REALLY REPLICATED ANYMORE SO I GOTTA DO IT NOW.

HOW DID YOU GET TRACKING DONE WITH ALL THE PANDEMIC STUFF GOING ON? WAS IT A HOME PROJECT?
I RECORDED THE GUITARS AND BASS AT HOME AND GOT THE DRUMS AND VOCALS DONE IN A STUDIO AND THEN I MIXED AND PARTLY MASTERED IT MYSELF AND HAD HELP FROM MY MATE ADAM RODGERS WITH THE MASTERING. WAS A LONG PROCESS, MAINLY CAUSE I LEFT IT FOR MONTHS ON END BUT I'M GLAD ABOUT HOW IT CAME OUT.

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE US RELEASE? WHO'S INVOLVED IN 1648 RECORDS?
WHEN THE RELEASE DROPPED ONE OF THE GUYS EVAN HIT ME UP SAYING HE REALLY LIKED THE RELEASE AND WANTED TO PUT IT OUT ON 1648 RECORDS. 1648 CONSISTS OF EVEN, ANCHIT AND JULIAN. GREAT GUYS AND WAS REALLY NICE WITH US WITH THE RELEASE.

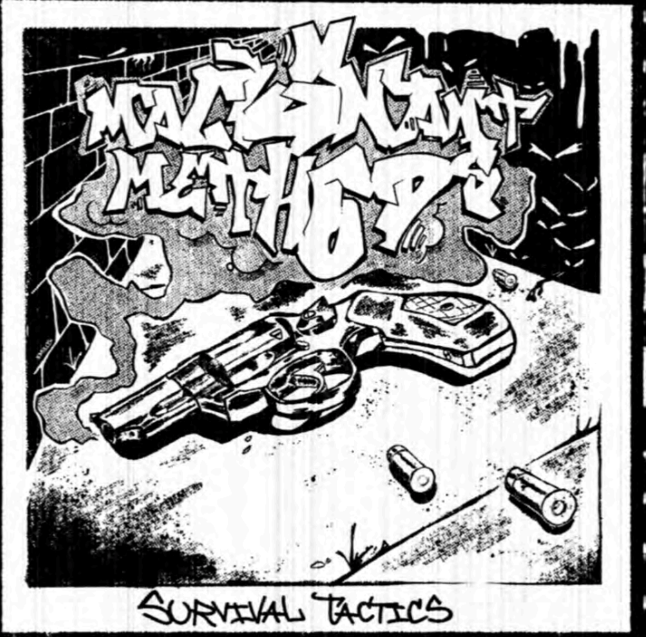
141
KM
MALIGNANT METHODS

"HARDCORE TO ME IS ABOUT MATES AND TRANSLATING WHAT GOES ON INSIDE MY HEAD INTO DUMB MOSH MUSIC. ANYTHING I DO IN HARDCORE IS FOR MY MATES AND FOR MYSELF AND IF PEOPLE LIKE WHAT I WRITE, THAT MEANS A WHOLE LOT."

ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO PLAYING SHOWS? YOU'VE GOT A SLOT ON THE REC UKHC RETURNS WEEKENDER, BUT DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE LINED UP?
I CANNOT WAIT TO PLAY A SHOW AGAIN. I'LL PROBABLY DO A BACKFLIP OR SOMETHING DURING THE SET ILL BE THAT GASSED. UKHC RETURNS WILL BE A WILD SHOW I'M MAD EXCITED FOR THAT.

WHEN CAN WE EXPECT NEW MUSIC FROM THE BAND?
HOPEFULLY SOON, TRYING TO MAKE A CATALOG OF SONGS AND JUST SEE WHERE WE GO FROM THERE.

CAN YOU SUM UP IN ONE SENTENCE WHAT HARDCORE MEANS TO YOU?
HARDCORE TO ME IS ABOUT MATES AND TRANSLATING WHAT GOES ON INSIDE MY HEAD INTO DUMB MOSH MUSIC. ANYTHING I DO IN HARDCORE IS FOR MY MATES AND FOR MYSELF AND IF PEOPLE LIKE WHAT I WRITE, THAT MEANS A WHOLE LOT. I WROTE SURVIVAL TACTICS EXPECTING TO JUST GET SHARES FROM MY MATES AND JUST DO ALRIGHT, BUT NOW I'M SEEING PEOPLE I DON'T PERSONALLY KNOW OR PEOPLE I DIDN'T KNOW EXISTED SHARE IT AND SAYING NICE THINGS ABOUT IT, I NEVER EXPECTED IT, AND ITS HONESTLY THE SICKEST FEELING AND YOU CANNOT REPLICATE IT OR REPLACE IT.



LISTEN TO MALIGNANT METHODS HERE!

AND CAN YOU GIVE US YOUR TOP THREE ESSENTIAL BEATDOWN RECORDS?
FOR ME, I HAVE TO GO WITH RETURN OF THE 3 SWORDS - SPECIAL MOVE, FIRST FAMILY - BEATDOWN FURY AND BROKEN TIES SPOKEN LIES - SHATTERED REALM.

THANKS FOR DOING THIS, ANY SHOUTOUTS, THANK YOUS, ANYTHING YOU WANNA RECOMMEND AT ALL?
I WANT TO BIG MY GHC 141 FAMILY TILL THE END. MY RTO FAMILY, ALL MY MATES IN AND OUT OF SCOTLAND. I AM IN TWO OTHER BANDS, CLIMATE OF FEAR AND LAST WISHES. EXPECT NEW RECORDS FROM US TOO. THE NEW BREED OF GHC ON SOME TAKEOVER SHIT WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT. THAT'S DESPIZE, HELLBOUND, DOP, DEKLINATION, AND MANY MORE IN THE WORKS, AND OF COURSE THE OTHER GHC BANDS THAT'S BEEN HERE FOR A MINUTE THAT I DON'T EVEN NEED TO MENTION, YOU ALREADY KNOW THE NAMES. NORTHERN UNREST. DON'T GET IT TWISTED THO, UKHC ON A WHOLE IS ALWAYS DOING SICK SHIT SO HAVE TO ALSO BIG UP CAULDRON, PHAZE TWO, SEVERENCE, COLD HARD TRUTH, SPLITKNUCKLE, MOURNING, IRONED OUT, MANTLET, RAIDEN, 50 CALIBER, RUCKTION RECORDS, READY EYE COLLECTIVE AND TOO MANY MORE GREAT BANDS, LABELS AND DISTROS IN THE UK KILLING IT IN THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES. ALSO WANT TO BIG UP 1648 RECORDS, DAZE, AND STREETS OF HATE. I COULD SHOUT PEOPLE OUT ALL DAY.

MENTALLY VEXED RECORDS
AND ZINE
Suppress
Second City Hardcore
NEW YORK
6
WE GOT SHIT COMING
LIKE ISSUE 4 AND A
TAPE IT'D BE NICE
COULD BUY THAT ST
MENTALLY
VEXED

DEATH TO FALSE HARDCORE